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Elton, Bob Marley, Lennon and me Bernie Taupin



INSIDE TIMES2

What your coffee (and everything else) says about you

The game's finally up for Spanish football chief after kiss

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

Luis Rubiales has resigned as the president of the Spanish Football Federation and as a Uefa vice-president amid the outcry over him kissing a player on the lips after the Women's World Cup final.

Rubiales, 46, has spent three weeks refusing to step down despite a storm of criticism, legal complaints, a threatened strike by dozens of Spanish women internationals and a Fifa charge for misconduct. Last night he admitted his position had become untenable.

Jenni Hermoso, 33, the Spain forward, said she did not consent to the kiss and has lodged a criminal complaint. Rubiales was also pictured holding his crotch and making a gesture while standing next to the Queen of Spain and her 16-year-old daughter during the 1-0 win over England.

Rubiales said that he would continue to "defend my honour" and "innocence" in a statement but revealed that he had submitted his resignation to the Spanish Football Federation and Uefa.

He said: "I cannot continue my work. After the rapid suspension carried out by Fifa, plus the rest of proceedings against me, it is evident that I will not be able to return to my position." He added that he did not want the furore to damage Spain, Portugal and Morocco's joint bid for the 2030 World Cup.

"I have faith in the truth and I will do everything in my power to prevail," he said. "My daughters, my family and the people who love me have suffered the effects of excessive persecution."

He also told Piers Morgan Uncensored in a TV interview that he made the decision after speaking to his father and daughters. "They know it's not a question about me," he said. "Some friends very close to me said 'Luis, now you have to focus on your dignity and to continue your life — because if not, you are probably going to damage people you love and the sport you love'."

Revealed: spy suspect at the heart of power

'Chinese agent' unmasked as GP's son who attended public school and uses dating app

Billy Kenber
Senior Investigations Reporter
Steven Swinford Political Editor
Fiona Hamilton Chief Reporter

A Tory parliamentary researcher arrested on suspicion of spying for China was the director of an influential policy group on Beijing co-founded by the security minister.

Chris Cash, 28, was closely linked with Tom Tugendhat and was employed as a researcher by Alicia Kearns, chairwoman of the Commons foreign affairs committee.

The suspect is the son of a GP and grew up in a wealthy suburb of Edinburgh. He went to the fee-paying George Watson's College, where he was a head of house, and later studied history at the University of St Andrews. He became active on Westminster's social scene and used a dating website, with a political journalist saying he made several attempts last year to arrange a date with her.

When he was arrested in March a handful of ministers were informed but details of the alleged security breach were not made public until this weekend, prompting outrage from MPs who were left in the dark. The Times was unable to reach Cash for comment.

Several MPs have been outspoken in their condemnation of China's human rights record and have been sanctioned by Beijing, including Tugendhat. They fear that they are targets for the Chinese security services. The MPs were so concerned by Cash's arrest that they were preparing to use parliamentary privilege to name him as the suspect in the Commons this week.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, a former Tory leader who has been sanctioned by China, said: "It's a remarkably dangerous situation. This is a guy who allegedly spies on behalf of the Chinese government in the place where decisions are made and sensitive information is transferred. It is vitally important that he is named because many people who came into contact with this individual will be unaware that he has been arrested on suspicion of espionage. There is a clear public interest."

Another Tory MP who has been sanctioned by China said: "I'm in a complete state of shock. We weren't told about this, we haven't been given any support. All sanctioned MPs should have been told. How many more people are there in parliament who might be targeting us?"

A third sanctioned Tory MP said: "We didn't know anything until we read it in the paper [The Sunday Times]. I feel incredibly let down."

Another MP who has been the focus of attention by China said: "We need to know how much information from the foreign affairs select committee this man had access to. Alicia didn't tell

Continued on page 6



Chris Cash, 28, was working for the chairwoman of the foreign affairs committee but MPs sanctioned by China say they were in the dark about his alleged spying

NHS revolt looms over 'physician associates'

Kat Lay Health Editor

A revolt by doctors is likely to disrupt plans to plug NHS workforce gaps by getting non-medics to take on some of their tasks.

Physician associates and anaesthesia associates are newer types of medical role that involve significantly less training than doctors receive. Medical leaders have backed plans to increase their use in the health service and the associate roles are key to the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan.

Many doctors say, however, that they are concerned about patient safety and allege that associates are not sufficiently supervised in short-staffed and underfunded hospitals.

A group protesting against the changes has forced a meeting at the Royal College of Anaesthetists in an attempt to halt its support for anaesthesia associates.

The Times understands that similar efforts are at an early stage in other medical specialties, where physician associates are being used more often.

Anaesthesia associates undertake a two-year postgraduate course but a consultant anaesthetist will have undergone nine years of on-the-job training after their medical degree.

Associates can give anaesthesia under the supervision of a consultant, who might oversee two associates in separate operating theatres at the same time. This would allow more operations to be performed than if the consultant were directly working on a single patient. The NHS's workforce plan, published in June, set out plans for a ten-fold increase in their use.

Physician associates fulfil a similar role with more general medical training and can see patients and diagnose conditions. The associate roles are not subject to formal regulation, although the General Medical Council is due to take up the role in the second half of next year.

In July concerns emerged about the use of physician associates in general

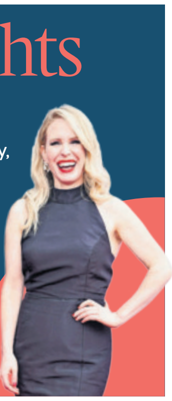
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VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

Today's highlights

7.15am **Kemi Badenoch**, business secretary
7.50am **Yvette Cooper**, shadow home secretary
10.15am **Lucy Frazer**, culture and media secretary, discusses plans to stop lawsuits known as "Slapps" against journalists
11am **John Healey**, shadow defence secretary
12.30pm The actress **Lucy Beaumont**, right, says what she would do if she ruled the world



TIMES RADIO
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TODAY'S EDITION

Young workers take stress leave

Among people aged between 16 and 24 questioned for a survey by Unmind, a company aiming to create "mentally healthy workplaces", 56 per cent said they had needed time off in the past six months because of stress, anxiety and depression. **Page 4**

Shops to fund theft crackdown

Ten of Britain's biggest shop chains are to fund a police operation against shoplifting, said by the British Retail Consortium to cost nearly £1 billion a year, as part of government efforts to ensure that all forces adopt a zero-tolerance approach. **Page 5**

War Office made into £1bn hotel

The Old War Office in Whitehall, which was the nerve centre of Britain's fight against Adolf Hitler, will open to the public for the first time as The OWO, a complex that includes a five-star hotel, restaurants, bars and 85 flats, after a £1billion refurbishment. **Page 9**

166 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan



JFK agent tells his side of story

Paul Landis, a Secret Service agent present at John F Kennedy's assassination, has spoken out for the first time, 60 years after the event, to challenge the official version, fuelling the theory that there could have been a second gunman. **Page 30**

Minis secured for Britain

The future of Mini production in Britain has been secured, with BMW likely to give the green light to the assembly of electric zero-emission Minis into the next decade at Cowley, Oxford, with component facilities near Coventry and in Swindon. **Page 33**

Rugby victory lifts confidence

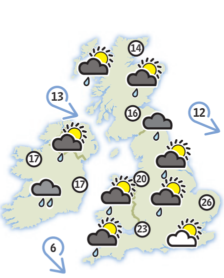
England's rugby players believe they can win the World Cup after beating Argentina 27-10 in the opening pool D match in Marseilles on Saturday. Steve Borthwick's team were reduced to 14 men inside three minutes when Tom Curry was sent off. **Page 68**

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THE WEATHER



Showers in central, northern and western areas. Warm in the southeast. **Full forecast, page 51**

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Fifth of households 'will soon have unaffordable rent or loan'

Martina Lees Senior Property Writer

One in five households in England will have homes costing more than a third of their income, defined as unaffordable, by the end of this decade, according to a study.

Without a government plan to solve the housing crisis the number of households with unaffordable homes will rise by 55 per cent (1.7 million) by 2030, the National Housing Federation, which represents housing associations, said.

The increase, to 4.8 million households, includes 1.1 million additional homeowners spending more than a third of their net income on mortgages, and 600,000 additional households in unaffordable private rented homes. By 2030, 2.2 million households will pay a third of their income to rent privately and 700,000 in social housing.

Researchers from the consultancy Pragmatix Advisory modelled how England's housing crisis would unfold if the trends continued and policy did not change. "If no long-term plan is put in place our forecasting shows that things will get worse," the report warns.

Homelessness will soar 130 per cent to 620,000 people by 2045, unless politicians act, it predicts. Despite unprecedented efforts to house everyone during the pandemic, homelessness has steadily increased over the past decade to 270,000 people this year.

About 310,000 children are expected to live in emergency accommodation such as B&Bs and hostels by 2045. This is more than double the 131,000 in 2021 and equates to one child in every school class in England. "Since the 1990s there has been an average net loss of 24,000 social homes a year," the report says. "Temporary accommodation is [increasingly] not temporary ... More than two thirds of families living in temporary accommodation have been there for over a year."

A third more families (350,000) will be on council housing waiting lists by 2030. By 2045 this will rise to 1.8 million households, up from 1.1 million in 2020, the study predicts.

Rising mortgage rates and private rents, coupled with a chronic shortage of social housing, will mean a sharp rise in the number of homeowners and private renters struggling to meet their housing costs. "A growing population and decline in housebuilding ... is expected to add to pressures," the study says.

Two million people live in homes that are not adapted or accessible for their needs, for example lacking handrails, ramps or stair lifts. By 2045 this will reach 2.3 million people.

Kate Henderson, chief executive of the federation, said: "There is no more time to lose. Without urgent action from government, by the end of the next parliament many more families will be left living in unsuitable and unaffordable housing, affecting their health, economic security and life chances.

"Many at the sharpest end of the crisis are forced to share beds or live in shared emergency accommodation such as B&Bs or hotels whilst struggling to pay for food.

"Today's report shows that short-term, piecemeal decisions on housing have created an emergency that will continue escalating at a rapid rate but this is a crisis that can be solved. By committing to a long-term plan for housing that is properly funded and based on ambitious, measurable outcomes, politicians of all parties could begin to turn the tide."

Task force on legal claims that muzzle journalists

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Plans to stop journalists from being "muzzled" by bogus legal actions will be discussed today as a task force established by Lucy Frazer, the culture secretary, meets for the first time.

Frazer will be joined by figures from the media and legal sectors to assess how best to crack down on the proliferation of strategic lawsuits against public participation (Slapps).

Russian oligarchs seeking to silence journalists are among the individuals who have made use of the legal device. They rely on the threat of costly phoney defamation and breach of privacy claims to stop the publication of stories that are in the public interest.

About 14 Slapps were used in the UK in 2021, up from four over the previous two years, according to the Coalition Against Slapps in Europe. It estimated that 820 have been used across Europe this year, up from 570 last year.

Half of journalists surveyed for a Thomson Reuters Foundation report said their newsrooms had experienced such legal action. The authors of the report said the law was increasingly being used as a "cudgel" by politicians, businesspeople, celebrities and criminals. Examples included the Belarusian journalist Katsiaryna Andreyeva, who was sentenced to eight years in prison for treason in 2022, and the Vietnamese writer Pham Doan Trang, who was sentenced to nine years for spreading anti-state propaganda.

The task force, with representatives from the Society of Editors, the National Union of Journalists and the Law Society of England and Wales, will meet bimonthly to explore how to tackle the problem facing non-economic news. The government has already sought to clamp down on Slapps around financial reporting as an amendment to the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill.

The task force will examine the scale of the problem and further regulation, as well as training for journalists and judges. It will make a case for funding once its goals have been agreed.

Frazer said: "We will develop strong measures that enhance the freedom of the press to expose wrongdoing without fear of our justice system being abused to silence journalists."

Sayra Tekin, from the News Media Association, said Slapps posed a serious threat to freedom of speech and urgent action was needed.

Truss: Stop pupils altering their gender

Steven Swinford Political Editor

Schools should be banned from allowing pupils to change their gender identity because children do not have "full decision-making capability", Liz Truss has said.

The former prime minister told The Times that the delay in publishing guidance by the government was "leaving schools in limbo". As minister for women and equalities, Truss blocked plans for gender "self-identification".

Draft guidance stated that children should be allowed to socially transition with parental consent, meaning they could choose another pronoun and uniform. Ministers took legal advice on whether a ban on social transitioning in schools was possible. Victoria Prentis, the attorney-general, concluded that such a move would be unlawful.

Truss said: "The government needs to publish new guidance stating that schools should ... not officially sanction social transitioning." She said social transitioning was "not a neutral act", adding: "Therefore it should not be officially sanctioned before a young adult has full decision-making capability."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Row over 'physician associates'

practice, after Emily Chesterton, 30, an actress, died of a blood clot that a physician associate had misdiagnosed. Her parents have said that she had no idea that she had not seen a doctor.

Dr Richard Marks, a semi-retired anaesthetist in London, who has been both a regional director of training and vice-president of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, is one of the leaders of the group opposing the changes.

He said: "Anaesthesia associates are non-doctors that have done a two-year course that enables them to give anaesthetics. Theoretically under supervision and within a narrow scope of practice, but anecdotally both of these conditions are waived in the real world." He said that arguments that associates were necessary, given a national shortage of anaesthetists, "do not withstand close scrutiny".

He drew attention to a bottleneck for doctors half way through their training caused by limits on numbers set in 2021. This has led to 700 would-be consultant anaesthetists being unable to progress. "My worry is that many of those currently finding themselves stuck midway through their training will catch the first flight to Australia, where they will be actively welcomed," he said.

Marks and colleagues have forced an extraordinary general meeting of the royal college on October 17. It will include motions mandating the college council to ask clinical directors to pause recruitment of associates and ensure that doctors in training were given priority. The group is also pushing for patients to be clearly told when an associate would be providing their care.

A spokeswoman for the royal college, which is surveying its members, said: "We await the results of our member survey ... There are enormous pressures on anaesthesia services nationwide due to a shortage of anaesthetists, unprecedented demand for our services and a lack of training positions for doctors specialising in anaesthesia."

An NHS spokeswoman said: "Anaesthetist associates are highly trained practitioners that work under the supervision of a consultant ... and help free up clinicians so they can spend more time with patients."

Celebrity cat's disappearance raises fear of sinister deeds



Bartolo was "like a son" to Nima Benati, who hired a pet detective after he failed to return from the mountains near Bologna

An influencer's pet is one of dozens missing and there is dark talk about a satanic sect, reports **James Imam**

Nima Benati is known for her classy photo shoots of Italian celebrities. They have graced the covers of Vogue and Vanity Fair and she has become a star in her own right, as an influencer and model.

Like many style luminaries she has a look that is completed with an array of striking accessories, which in her case includes a fluffy white cat called Bartolo. Balanced on her knee in one photo, Bartolo sits with a poise and grace that seem to be at one with a spray of white flowers behind her.

But that was then. Bartolo has since been plucked from his pampered life and joined dozens of cats who are now missing near Bologna.

In a small stretch of the Apennine Mountains, 30 cats were reported missing last month. For hers, Benati, 31, is offering a €5,000 reward. She has also enlisted Said Beid, a pet detective, to look for the five-year-old chinchilla silver shaded Persian, who went missing on August 9.

"Bartolo is like a son to Nima," Shasa Benati, her sister and personal assistant, said. "She sleeps with her on her pillow and on the sofa. She's her shadow."

With a thick covering of white fur and large green eyes, Bartolo is often compared to Choupette, Karl Lagerfeld's beloved white cat, who was invited to this year's Met Gala in New York. Benati bought her cat, who is neutered, from a breeder in Naples and never had him microchipped even though such breeds sell for hundreds of euros.

Benati left Bartolo last month with her family in Monghidoro, a small town near Bologna, while she went on holiday to Costa Rica. Previously he had been fine there.

"He's always had free rein in the mountains," her sister said. "He'd leave for two days and come back drenched after a storm with a mouse in his mouth. He was a proper cat."

The family has received hundreds of reported sightings, videos and photos of similar cats from as far afield as the Netherlands, but Bartolo has yet to be found.

Beid said that cat disappearances were common during the summer when owners would go on holiday and leave their pets with friends or family in unfamiliar environments.

"Some are stolen by cat thieves who breed them for profit; others are eaten by wild animals after they venture outdoors as they search for their owners and get lost," he said.

The Italian Association for the Protection of Animals and the Environment believes, however, that the reason for the disappearances could be more nefarious.

Having found no cat carcasses, it dismissed suggestions that the cats were being eaten by wild predators, suggesting instead that a satanic sect might be abducting the cats.

"The issue is urgent and alarming, and cat owners are beginning to be afraid," said the association, which has reported the existence of sects across Italy whose members sacrifice black cats to mark Halloween.

Many will be hoping that their cats have simply got lost. Runaway cats commonly hide in shrubbery during the day and venture out at night in search of food, according to Beid. Methods for finding them include placing cat food in front of strategically positioned video cameras and conducting search operations with thermal vision goggles or surveillance drones, as well as by using sniffer dogs.

"Domestic cats can be found weeks after living in the wild, especially if they have access to food or have joined a colony of feral cats," Beid added.

Others that have been reported missing include Eddy, a 12kg cat that disappeared near Monzuno on August 31. His owners have offered €1,000 for his return. Some owners have reported finding their cats' unbuckled collars without traces of blood. The carabinieri are understood to be investigating the case with local foresters. Benati's sister said that she refused to lose hope that Bartolo was still alive.

"The idea that someone has harmed him makes me want to cry," she said. "I just hope that if someone has taken him he is having a good life in somebody else's home."

Alastair Stewart's dementia struggle

Tom Whipple Science Editor

The broadcaster Alastair Stewart has revealed that he has early onset vascular dementia.

Stewart, 71, spent 35 years as a news presenter on ITV before switching to GB News and then retiring from regular broadcasting earlier this year.

In an interview with the channel, he said that the diagnosis of the condition came after he began to feel "a bit discombobulated" six to nine months ago.

"I wasn't becoming forgetful," he said. "But things like doing your shoelaces properly, making sure your tie was straight, remembering the call time for your programme is four o'clock and not five o'clock, not turning up early or late, and stuff like that. And I then decided at my ripe old age … that I might have something wrong up here."

Vascular dementia is the second most common form of dementia, after Alzheimer's, and affects about 180,000 people in the UK. It is caused by damage to blood vessels in the brain. After a scan, Stewart was told he had unknowingly had a series of minor strokes.

Although vascular dementia is incurable, its progress can be slowed through lifestyle changes. Stewart said he had stopped smoking and started walking



The news veteran said he first felt discombobulated nine months ago

his dog more. "It will progressively get worse [but not] to the point where you get completely doolally," he said.

He said his long and medium-term memory was good, but that he had to write things down and rely on his wife. The effect on his motor skills has been difficult but there have been specific effects that he attributed to the locations of the strokes. He struggles to read an analogue clock face.

Samantha Benham-Hermetz, executive director at Alzheimer's Research UK, said: "We applaud Alastair's brave decision to share his diagnosis publicly. By speaking so openly and honestly about his experience, we hope this will put a further spotlight on the desperate need to find new treatments for all forms of dementia. Dementia has a heartbreaking impact on their loved ones, too."

Stewart said that the toughest part had been the effect on his relationship with his wife. "We've been married for nearly half a century and your life partner, your lover, all of those descriptions that are personal and intimate — that person is reduced … because your health, through no fault of your own, is reducing this person who is the most important person in your life to the role of a carer."

Coronation chairs fit for a king to be sold for charity

Lucy Bannerman

For those who can't afford a throne of their own, an auction is offering the next best thing: a chair from the coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla.

Six pairs of "coronation chairs" are to be auctioned by Christie's. The proceeds will go to four charities chosen by the couple: Emmaus UK, which helps homeless people; SafeLives, which is trying to end domestic abuse; the Prince's Trust, which helps young people to fulfil their potential; and the Prince's Foundation, which focuses on heritage-led regeneration and sustainability. Each pair of chairs is estimated to reach up to £4,000 at auctions in London, Paris and New York over two days. They were commissioned for the ceremony by the King and Queen. The auction will take place on the Collector, a global online platform that Christie's introduced this year. It specialises in decorative arts, with a focus on English, European and 19th-century furniture and works of art, silver, ceramics, glass, clocks and gold boxes from the 16th to the 20th century. The lots can be browsed online from October 13, with sales closing on November 3. Once the first 12 chairs are sold more will be available for private sale, Christie's says.



The King and Queen commissioned the chairs

PETER TARRY



Double take It was sunglasses weather at the Goodwood Revival, a historic car racing festival near Chichester. Yesterday started with a flypast of old aeroplanes

More than half of youngsters take time off with poor mental health

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

More than half of young workers have taken sick leave in the past six months because of mental health problems, research suggests.

Among 16 to 24-year-olds questioned for a survey 56 per cent said that they needed time off because of stress, anxiety and depression. Among staff aged 45-54 the figure was 33 per cent and was 12 per cent among over 55s.

The figures are based on a survey of more than 2,000 adults by Unmind, a company that is "on a mission to create mentally healthy workplaces". It also found that a third of the people it questioned were considering giving up work altogether because of mental health concerns.

Official figures show that 2.6 million people are off work because of illness, and half have depression, stress or anxiety. Experts say that the cost of living crisis, higher mortgage rates and long NHS waiting lists for counselling are driving the rise in mental health problems. There has also been a generational shift in attitudes to work and junior employees are more likely to take part in the "quiet quitting" phenomenon, in which they do the bare minimum.

Dr Nick Taylor, chief executive of Unmind, said: "For younger adults the modern workplace can be very isolating. The shift to working from home means they might be working from their bedroom in shared accommodation, on back-to-back video calls. It can be hard to find work-life boundaries.

"There is a perception that young people are soft but actually they have uniquely difficult challenges. Younger people are under the most financial pressure. People in their later years have accumulated wealth and may own a house, which means they can be more resilient in an economic downturn. But if you're trying to get a foot on the housing ladder, and save up a deposit, that is going to impact wellbeing."

He said companies needed to do more to foster a workplace culture that supported better mental health, including providing financial advice and promoting exercise and good sleep. "Businesses need to recognise that younger generations are coming in with different anxieties, and adapt to accommodate that group of people, to improve their overall productivity and success," he said.

The survey also found that employees who owned their own homes were suffering from stress caused by the cost of living and higher mortgage rates. One third said that it was having a negative impact on their ability to focus at work and more than a quarter said that they were experiencing more "brain fog" and subsequently making more mistakes than normal.

Dr Heather Bolton, director of science at Unmind, said: "These results show the profound impact of the cost of living crisis on people's mental and physical health, relationships and work life. Exposure to chronic stress and uncertainty can increase our vulnerability to unhelpful coping behaviours, mental health difficulties and greater feelings of isolation.

"Poor mental health isn't inevitable when exposed to financial difficulty, and employers can play a key role in protecting their workforce."

Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows that the youth mental health crisis has upturned the traditional pattern of sickness increasing with age. People in their late thirties are three times as likely to have mental health problems that limit their daily lives as those in their late sixties.

Office for National Statistics figures show that since 2019 the number of economically inactive workers who have depression, stress or anxiety has risen by 40 per cent to 1.35 million.

Last week ministers said that hundreds of thousands of people with mental health problems would be told to look for work that they can do from home, to fill job vacancies and cut the benefits bill.

Freshers need modules in learning to rub along, Libby Purves, page 25

Crossbreed may be banned after attack on girl

Adam Vaughan, Matt Dathan

Suella Braverman is considering banning XL bully dogs after an attack in which three people were injured.

The home secretary said the attack, in Birmingham, was "appalling" and XL bullies, an American crossbreed, were a "clear and lethal danger".

An 11-year-old girl was taken to hospital after suffering non life-threatening injuries. She was one of three people who were attacked by the dog in Bordesley Green on Saturday, West Midlands police said. They are still investigating the incident. Police added that they had spoken to the dog's owner and it had been put in secure kennels.

"This is appalling. The American XL bully is a clear and lethal danger to our communities, particularly to children. We can't go on like this. I have commissioned urgent advice on banning them," Braverman said on Twitter/X.

Video posted on TikTok and shared on Twitter/X, which appears to have been shot from a bus, shows members of the public trying to tackle the dog and being attacked. Speculation that it was an XL bully is unconfirmed.

In the video, a person can be seen being attacked by the dog before a second person tries to hold it back, but it escapes. Several people were filmed trying to get away as the dog runs across a road into a petrol station forecourt and drags a man to the ground. Three men come to his aid, with one holding what appears to be a shovel.

While a shop and petrol station in the video match the location where the incident took place, The Times was unable to verify the footage. It has since been removed from TikTok.

The girl was bitten as she ran past the dog while it was being walked by its owner. Two men were injured on their shoulders and arms after intervening.

Quintagram® No 1730

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Arm joint (5)

_ _ _ _ _

2 Audacity, effrontery (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 --- Springs, Australian town (5)

_ _ _ _ _

4 Capable of being stretched (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Glenn Miller or Count Basie, eg (4,6)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	A	B	B	C
C	D	D	E	E	E	E	I
I	I	L	L	L	N	R	R
R	S	S	S	S	T	T	W

Solutions see T2 MindGames p15
Cryptic clues T2 MindGames p14

TUC seeks UN ruling

The Trades Union Congress is reporting the government to the UN's labour watchdog over the Strikes Act, which became law in July, forcing some workers in key industries to keep working to give a minimum service during disputes or risk being sacked. Paul Nowak, the TUC's general secretary, said this contravened international legal standards and it will be raised with the UN's worker protection committee. The government said the law was meant to strike a balance between worker rights and public needs.

Parents have problems

Almost three quarters of people with young children say that it is getting harder to bring them up in Britain, according to a survey by Unicef. They highlighted the rising cost of living, problems finding childcare, having less time to spend with their children and a lack of local support. Almost 70 per cent felt that the government was doing too little to support them. Unicef called for urgent action "to safeguard our babies' and children's future".

Wave of bird flu deaths

A "shocking" 7,000 seabirds, including kittiwakes, puffins and guillemots, have died from bird flu in National Trust colonies this year. The charity said the disease had ripped through five colonies — Anglesey in Wales, Brownsea Island in Dorset, Pembrokeshire and the east and north coasts of Northern Ireland — up from one last year, in the Farne Islands. The islands, off Northumberland, are closed to visitors to give its famous puffins a chance to breed.

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Supermarkets unite against shoplifters

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Ten of Britain's biggest retailers have agreed to fund a police operation to crack down on shoplifting as part of government efforts to ensure all forces adopt a zero-tolerance approach.

In return, forces will run CCTV of shoplifting provided by stores through the Police National Database, which includes facial recognition technology.

The partnership — named Project Pegasus — has been described as a game-changer by police chiefs because it will give them a national picture of where shoplifting gangs are operating.

Shoplifting offences have soared by a quarter this year, according to the Office for National Statistics, but police have been accused of failing to take the crime seriously. In the 12 months to March, the police recorded 339,206 cases despite the British Retail Consortium estimating there were eight million incidents, which it says costs retailers nearly £1 billion per year.

Only 48,218 incidents resulted in a charge, 14 per cent, while 183,450 investigations, or 54 per cent, were closed with no suspect being identified.

Ministers met police chiefs and representatives from leading supermarkets and retailers on Thursday to hammer out plans to target shoplifters.

The huge spike in shoplifting has been driven by organised crime groups who deploy individuals to steal higher value items from supermarkets such as steaks and alcohol, which they then sell directly to market owners, pubs, corner shops and through other means.

Pegasus will receive £600,000 from ten supermarkets and retailers including John Lewis, Co-op, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Next.

Chris Philp, the policing minister, has asked police leaders to draw up a target list of prolific shoplifters to create a national shoplifting database. He has also asked forces to dedicate a proportion of officers that are funded by the government's new antisocial behaviour initiative to patrol areas that report high levels of shoplifting.

Philp has asked police to report back within eight weeks with a "zero-tolerance plan to target shoplifting".

Katy Bourne, the police and crime commissioner for Sussex who is the national lead for business and retail crime, has estimated that 20 per cent of offenders account for 80 per cent of shoplifting offences in her county.

A partnership with the Co-op in Sussex has targeted shoplifters by introducing one-touch reporting, where shop workers can report an offence with the touch of a button. This has reduced the time it takes from 30 minutes to two minutes on average and has led to an increase in the number of reports being submitted to police.

"If you make a concerted effort to tackle prolific offenders at a local level, you can have a big impact on reducing crime overall," Bourne said.

At Thursday's meeting at the Home Office, which was also attended by Kevin Hollinrake, the minister for small businesses, police laid out three cohorts who shoplift. There are the opportunists, who are often younger; adults who are driven by the need to fund an addiction and tend to be prolific; and individuals who are working for organised gangs, which pose the biggest threat as they target the highest value goods.

"All those at the meeting recognised that it's the organised criminality that is really hitting them hard and that's the bit they really want police to deal with. Pegasus will enable this to happen," Bourne said. "It'll be a game-changer for policing because for the first time, policing will get a complete picture across the country."

According to one of those at the meeting, Philp said: "Shoplifting is not a minor offence. It creates an atmosphere of menace and disorder, it's unpleasant and puts shop workers at risk, as well as representing a financial cost. If you don't hit it hard, it escalates."

The Co-op has recorded a 35 per cent increase in shoplifting in the first six months of this year and a 36 per cent rise in assaults on staff.

Paul Gerrard, Co-op's campaigns and public affairs director, who also attended Thursday's meeting, said it was organised crime groups driving the increase in shoplifting, rather than other factors such as the rising cost of living. He added: "I think Pegasus is a very good thing, we are very supportive of it."

KEVIN JAY/PICTURE EXCLUSIVE; IOANNIS ALEXOPOULOS/LNP; RAOUL DIXON/NORTH NEWS AND PICTURES







Day of two halves Traditional sailing vessels raced at Brightlingsea, Essex, in the late summer sunshine. Thousands of sunbathers flocked to Brighton beach, top right, yesterday, while rain in the northeast led to flooding and a soggy finish for competitors at the Great North Run in South Shields. The highest temperature was in Cambridge at 32.5C — down from 32.7C at Heathrow on Saturday Forecast, page 51

British pilot dies when glider crashes into trees in Pyrenees

Natalia Penza

Tributes have been paid to a British man who died in a gliding accident in the foothills of the Pyrenees.

Mike Evans, 75, who was nicknamed "Little Mike" because of his height, was injured after coming off the runway and hitting trees as he landed at the Santa Cilia aerodrome near the northern Spanish city of Jaca.

Emergency responders received an alert at about 4pm on Saturday saying he was conscious and complaining of neck pain. Local reports said he was alive for about 40 minutes after the accident but was pronounced dead at the scene after losing consciousness and going into cardiac arrest. Luis Ferreira, the aerodrome director, who knew Evans through the Nimbus Aeroclub based there, said everyone at the club was devastated.

The club said in a Facebook tribute: "So long Mike. A pleasure having known you." Another friend wrote on the website: "There are many of us friends who feel the deep pain your departure has caused us.

"This September 9 has been a fateful day and a terrible accident. Happy flying dear friend. We will never forget you, small great man."

Residents in the Jaca area said he was a member of the Lasham Gliding Society at Lasham Airfield in Alton,



Mike Evans was said to have flown at the airfield for more than 20 years

Hampshire, which has been described as one of the largest gliding clubs in the world. Someone who knew him from the Nimbus Aeroclub said: "He was less than five feet tall and was getting on and probably didn't have the attributes he needed to carry on gliding.

"But he was so passionate about it he just didn't want to give up. He came in fast and high and went off the runway. He hit the trees fairly hard and although a post-mortem will have to determine his cause of death, I'm sure it's going to decide it was linked to the force of the collision."

Evans was famed for his abilities as a chef at Lasham Gliding Society and had also taken part in several charity events it organised. He is also believed to have edited a magazine there in the past. No one from the society was available for comment yesterday.

Evans is said to have been a regular at the Spanish aerodrome since 1999. An investigation into the accident has begun. Photos of the crash site showed the damaged single-seat glider in undergrowth near the runway with its left wing against a fallen tree. Police tape had been put up around it.

An unnamed acquaintance quoted in a Spanish newspaper said: "We've known him a long time. He's spent up to four months of the year here at times because of his passion for flying."

Saturday's crash was the first such accident in the province of Huesca.

Santa Cilia aerodrome is regarded as one of the best locations in Spain for gliding, with the thermals and air currents making it a reference point for both amateurs and professionals. The aerodrome hosted the Spanish National Gliding Championships in 2010 and is visited annually by hundreds of glider pilots from Europe.

News Politics

Skilled networker who hosted

Billy Kenber
Senior Investigations Reporter
George Greenwood, Fiona Hamilton

The parliamentary researcher accused of spying for China was a "skilled networker" who rubbed shoulders with ministers and hosted regular drinks events at Westminster.

Before his arrest in March, Chris Cash, 28, enjoyed a rapid rise in UK-China policy circles. He was director of the influential China Research Group co-founded by Tom Tugendhat, who is now the security minister, and worked as a researcher for the Conservative MP Alicia Kearns, helping with her successful campaign to chair the foreign affairs select committee.

Cash had a parliamentary pass and was involved in drafting reports and writing briefing notes for Kearns and other politicians, as well as appearing as a panellist in policy debates and regularly being interviewed for podcasts and newspaper articles.

His abrupt disappearance from Westminster in March had left acquaintances questioning what had happened, with some told he had grown jaded and decided to take a belated gap year travelling in southeast Asia. The truth came out this weekend when The Sunday Times revealed that two unnamed men had been arrested on suspicion of espionage offences. Cash's name was soon circulating among former colleagues, many of whom were shocked at his suspected involvement.

Cash is the son of a GP and grew up in a wealthy suburb of Edinburgh. He went to the fee-paying George Watson's College, where he was a head of house, a keen rugby player and debater and the school's youngest first-team cricket captain. He studied history at the University of St Andrews before spending two years teaching English literature at an international school in Hangzhou, near Shanghai, on a scheme run by the British Council.

He returned to the UK to study for an MSc in China and globalisation at King's College London before securing employment at Westminster in 2021. He was hired as a researcher for the China Research Group, an influential group of MPs who have taken a generally critical position on China and whose successes include pressuring the government to ban Huawei equipment from the 5G network. More recently he was hired as a researcher for Kearns, working inside parliament.

The Times understands that the alleged original approach to recruit Cash by China was not made online, via a professional networking site such as LinkedIn, raising the likelihood it was through someone Cash met abroad or in the course of his parliamentary work.

One of those who knew him described him as a "very knowledgeable, very authoritative, very bright guy".

Luke de Pulford, of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, said Cash was a "very serious operator" and a "skilled networker who became very embedded in the Westminster China scene".

Cash has publicly criticised China in a number of areas but has also sometimes advocated for nuance in debates. On his now deleted account at Twitter/X, his most recent tweet was a quote from an article in the German media about the negative impact on the German economy of pursuing an EU-wide policy of "decoupling" from China.

"Desperately need this sort of worst case scenario modelling done in the UK. Otherwise we're stuck with hazy derisking strategy ideas," he wrote.

Cash was also active on Westminster's social scene. He was photographed at a party at the US embassy in London last year and organised bimonthly drinks at a pub near parliament for a "Whitehall crowd of quite young people interested in China". The regular event, known as Westminster China Policy drinks, was popular with young civil servants, political aides, journalists and think tank staffers.

"They used to do a drinks thing, [he] would always be there, there were some young people who worked for the Foreign Office there, Hongkongers … it was a lot of young people interested in China," one of those who attended said.

Another guest, who had been invited by Cash, said those attending included young Tory researchers, junior civil servants and American think tank staff.

Cash was also active on a dating website, making several attempts last year to arrange a date with a Westminster journalist. Noa Hoffman of The Sun, wrote on X that she "came extremely close to going on a date with an alleged Chinese spy".

"We matched on Hinge last year and kept meaning to go for drinks but someone always ended up cancelling last minute," she said. On one occasion when they were due to meet he had cancelled because he had Covid-19.

MPs must establish the impact on UK democracy, leading article, page 27

Analysis

It was the briefest of slips (Steven Swinford writes). "The prime minister has been very clear when it comes to China, it's an epoch-defining threat," Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, said yesterday. "Or challenge, forgive me." Chalk's mistake highlights, in a microcosm, the difficulty of the Conservative Party's shifting position on China.

During the leadership contest last summer, Rishi Sunak was clear. "China is the biggest long-term threat to Britain and the world's economic and national security," he said. "Enough is enough. For too long, politicians in Britain and across the West have rolled out the red carpet and turned a blind eye to China's nefarious activity and ambitions. I will change this on day one as prime minister."

Since entering No 10, his tone has changed significantly. In March the government updated the integrated review — a broad strategy document that sets out foreign and defence policy — and described China as an "epoch-defining challenge".

The Sunak argument is that China is simply too big to be ignored. It is better to follow the approach of other nations such as Japan, Canada and Australia and have constructive engagement with Beijing, raising concerns face-to-face.

"There's no point carping from the sidelines," Sunak said after meeting Li Qiang, the Chinese premier, at the G20 yesterday. "I'd rather be there directly expressing my concerns, and that's what I did today."

The same reasoning lay behind a visit by James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, to Beijing last month. Yet for Tory MPs who have been formally sanctioned by China for criticising the regime, the approach is seen as weak. Given mounting evidence of Chinese spying in Britain, they argue that it needs to be formally recognised as a hostile state posing a direct threat to the UK's national security and interests.

Joseph Sternberg (1)
Columnist for The Wall Street Journal's European edition

Cindy Yu (2)
Assistant editor of The Spectator magazine

Sam Hogg (3)
Founder of Beijing to Britain, a weekly look at China relations

Charles Dunst (4)
Deputy research and analytics director at The Asia Group





Chris Cash, far right and top, was a familiar face at Westminster among those

Anger over delay in naming suspect

Continued from page 1

anyone. We're all really pissed off. She's been a nightmare on this."

A source close to Kearns, however, said: "Preposterous suggestions that Alicia should have breached all police and intelligence requests not to discuss this case could only come from individuals with zero understanding of legal investigations or intelligence work."

Rishi Sunak met Li Qiang, the Chinese prime minister, at the G20 in India yesterday and raised "very strong concerns about any interference in our parliamentary democracy". He defended his policy of engagement with Beijing, arguing that there was "no point carping" from the sidelines. The government is split over plans to formally designate China as an explicit threat to national security under new security laws.

The case is likely to raise serious questions about security. Cash was vetted as a parliamentary passholder but did not have a security clearance.

The Times understands that the material exchanged was not necessarily classified or top secret. However, a security source said information did not need to be top secret to be highly sensitive and valuable to China, adding: "It's about networks and about influence. What do people in parliament think, which other people can be spoken to?"

Tugendhat was the founder and co-chairman of the China Research Group and had "infrequent" contact with Cash during his time in the role. He has had no contact with him since he was appointed security minister under Liz Truss. Neil O'Brien, who is now a health minister, co-chaired the China Research Group with Tugendhat but had little contact with Cash.

Over the past two years Ken McCallum, the director-general of MI5, and other senior security officials have warned of attempts by China to change the direction of legislation and government decision-making, as well its efforts to steal British intellectual property.

Last year the alleged work of Christine Lee, a suspected agent for the Chinese Communist Party, led MI5 to release a rare interference alert even though she is not believed to have accessed top-secret material. She denies wrongdoing and is understood to be suing MI5.

Matt Jukes, the Met's assistant commissioner in charge of counterterrorism, said this year that investigations linked to threats from foreign states had quadrupled in the past two years.

The National Security Act, which became law and replaced the Official Secrets Act this summer, contains new powers to make it easier to prosecute the passing of information to hostile states. It does not apply in this case.

Cash was arrested at the same time as a second man in his thirties. Both are on police bail until next month. Cash's parliamentary pass was sponsored by Kearns. The Tory MP Caroline Noakes told Times Radio yesterday: "We need them to be looking at what passes have been issued … and making sure that those who shouldn't have them don't."

Minister urges kindness as Hunt plans raid on benefits

Steven Swinford
Harry Yorke Delhi

The Conservative Party must be "decent and humane" and provide support to the most disadvantaged in society, the justice secretary has said as ministers consider real-term cuts to benefits.

Alex Chalk, a centrist Tory MP, made his remarks on a Sunday morning talk show, opening an apparent cabinet split with Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor. A source close to Chalk later said that he had not been expressing a view on the plans and that it was a "matter for the chancellor".

Hunt is considering breaking with the normal practice of lifting benefits in line with inflation to free up cash for tax cuts. Benefits usually rise in line with September's inflation figure, expected to be just over 7 per cent, but the Treasury could point to the fact that inflation is expected to be far lower by April when the increase comes into effect.

Ministers are also said to be considering tweaking the triple lock, under which the state pension rises in line with wages, inflation or 2.5 per cent, whichever is the greater. The state pension is expected to rise by 8 per cent next April in line with wages. The move is seen within government as politically unpalatable but Rishi Sunak declined to say yesterday whether he would commit himself to the triple lock.

According to Bloomberg the chancellor is considering increasing benefits by 1 percentage point below inflation, or raising them in line with lower projected inflation figures for next year.

The prime minister declined to speculate about what would be in the chancellor's statement on November 22 when asked if he could guarantee that benefits would rise with inflation.

drinks for China policy crowd



Alicia Kearns
Tory MP for Rutland & Melton and chairwoman of the foreign affairs select committee

Steven Lynch
Former managing director of the British Chamber of Commerce in China

with a particular interest in China. After university he spent two years teaching at an international school in Hangzhou

Plan to label Beijing a threat to security divides Tory MPs

Steven Swinford Political Editor

Rishi Sunak is facing government splits over plans to formally designate China a threat to national security, part of an effort to stop foreign spies operating in Britain.

Suella Braverman, the home secretary, and Tom Tugendhat, the security minister, are pushing for China to be categorised as a threat to Britain's "safety and interests" under new national security laws.

Under the plans anyone working "at the direction" of China or state-linked Chinese companies would be required to register with the government and disclose any activities they are carrying out on their behalf. Failure to do so would be a criminal offence and subject to a five-year jail sentence.

The Home Office wants this tough approach because China is taking a "whole of state" approach to spying, using companies as well as its security services. The move has been met with resistance elsewhere in government, however, amid concerns about the economic impact. The Treasury is concerned that the breadth of the powers could have a significant impact on trade because it would require all activities to be registered.

A senior government source said that the Foreign Office and Department for Business and Trade had raised similar concerns, although the discussion about the plans has so far been led by officials rather than ministers.

Tory MPs who have been sanctioned by Beijing for criticising its practices are leading calls for China to be placed on the "enhanced" list for scrutiny under the new legislation. They point to the fact that companies in China are compelled to hand over information to intelligence agencies.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, a former Conservative Party leader, said: "They should be on the enhanced list. They are systemically penetrating every institution in the UK. China doesn't recognise private versus state. Every company in China owes its absolute and total allegiance to the state.

"The national security law in China makes it very clear that Chinese companies purporting to be private are in fact locked to the Chinese government because they have to co-operate with the authorities at all times. We have been unbelievably weak and naive about China."

Bob Seely, another Tory MP sanctioned by China, said: "You might as well pack up and go home if they're not on it. There is one country above all others which is using economic muscle to get its way. The idea that you don't include China on this enhanced list is absurd."

During the Tory leadership contest Sunak described China as the biggest threat facing Britain but since taking office he has weakened the language to describe it as an "epoch-defining challenge". Yesterday he accused critics who wanted Britain to disengage from China of moaning and said that it was better to raise issues face to face.

The Home Office has been pushing for China to be added to the enhanced list but others in Whitehall have raised concerns that the approach is overzealous. They say it risks criminalising Chinese trade that poses no security threat to Britain and could do significant economic damage.

Sunak met Li Qiang, the Chinese premier, at the G20 summit in India yesterday and raised concerns about the arrest of a British parliamentary researcher over allegations of spying for Beijing.

Defending the government's approach, he said: "Where there are areas of disagreement or areas of concern that we have, I'd rather be in the room talking to the Chinese directly about those, face to face. I think that's the right approach. There's no point carping from the sidelines. I'd rather be in there directly expressing my concerns, and that's what I did today."

Call for restrictions on student loans

Steven Swinford

Students who fail to pass GCSE maths or English or get three E grades at A-level should be banned from taking out student loans, right-wing Conservatives have said.

The New Conservatives, a group of 30 Tory MPs, said young people are increasingly being "ripped off" by poor-quality university courses.

They call for funding to be diverted into a "German-style" apprenticeship system. In Germany, they say, over half of young people complete an apprenticeship compared with 10 per cent in the UK. The authors of the report — Jonathan Gullis, a former schools minister in Liz Truss's government, and Lia Nici, a Tory MP — say that university is no longer a "hallmark of success".

"Many young people today could have much more opportunity if they opted for on-the-job training alongside receiving an industry-recognised qualification, rather than go to university," they say. "But too few make that choice. It is unsurprising that so many young people opt for a university education.

"Not only are graduates promised higher starting salaries, but the 'university experience' is deemed a rite of passage by many. Eighteen-year-olds can enjoy three years away from the watchful eyes of parents, with no immediate, or even short-to-mid-term, financial cost to themselves. And yet many students feel short-changed by their university experience."

They argue that introducing minimum grades to qualify for government loans for tuition fees would limit the number of students attending poor-quality courses. Rishi Sunak announced this year that universities offering courses with poor employment prospects and high student dropout rates will be subject to stricter regulatory controls.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies, a think tank, previously found that one in five students would be better off if they skipped higher education. The research found that while 80 per cent gained financially by going to universities, about 20 per cent earned less than those with similar school results who did not go to university.

The Office for Students, which regulates universities, last year found that 56,000 students are studying at 35 universities and colleges which have failed to meet a requirement for 80 per cent of students doing their first degree progressing into their second year of study. They include the University of Bedfordshire, which has a progression rate of 70.8 per cent, and London Metropolitan University, at 77.7 per cent.

It also found that more than 11,000 students are registered at 62 universities and colleges which did not meet a 60 per cent threshold for students securing professional jobs or training 15 months after graduating.

They included University College Birmingham, at 46.8 per cent and Arts University Plymouth, at 55.1 per cent.

Hopes rising for return of Stormont, say Sunak allies

Steven Swinford

Rishi Sunak's allies are increasingly optimistic that Stormont will be restored in the next few months after the Irish prime minister said he expects to see a united Ireland within his lifetime.

Leo Varadkar said: "I believe we are on the path to unification. I believe that there will be a united Ireland in my lifetime. In that united Ireland there is going to be a minority. Roughly a million people who are British. And you judge the success and quality of a country by the way it treats its minorities. That is something we are going to have to think about."

Opinion polls in Ireland last month showed Sinn Fein increasing its lead over Varadkar's Fine Gael party and its coalition partner, Fianna Fáil. Irish elections must be held by March 2025, but there have been suggestions that there could be a snap election this year.

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has boycotted the Stormont assembly in Northern Ireland for nearly 19 months. It has concerns about Sunak's Windsor agreement deal with the EU on post-Brexit trade and voted against it earlier this year.

An ally of Sunak said: "We are optimistic that we can give the DUP greater reassurances. It's not straightforward but we're hopeful of a deal in the next few months." They added of Varadkar: "All of that rhetoric from Leo is purely about trying to manage Sinn Fein. He has his own election to deliver." A UK government spokesman said: "Northern Ireland will remain part of the UK for as long as its people wish for it to be.

"We are absolutely clear that there is no basis to suggest that a majority of people in Northern Ireland wish to separate from the United Kingdom."

Suicide prevention plan will target poison sellers

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

The government has pledged to target people supplying lethal substances to suicidal people after The Times revealed that a Canadian cook was shipping poison to the UK.

Steve Barclay, the health secretary, has unveiled a national suicide prevention strategy, including a promise to collaborate with other countries to "stop suppliers of dangerous and lethal substances at the source".

Kenneth Law, a Canadian cook, was sending a poison to suicidal Britons. He went undetected for almost two years and the National Crime Agency (NCA) said later that 88 people in the UK had died from his poison.

The prevention strategy will also involve the introduction of an alert system to combat emerging methods of suicide and provide training for the police, paramedics and other first responders.

Law, 57, repeatedly came up in police investigations into suicides in Britain, but no force appeared to investigate his role in them.

Maria Caulfield, minister for mental health, writing in The Times, said the strategy would help to close loopholes "wickedly used" by the likes of Law.

The strategy is aimed at reducing England's annual suicide rate, which is now more than 5,000, within two and a half years. It includes more than a hundred measures aimed at groups at risk, including children and young people, middle-aged men, autistic people, pregnant women and new mothers.

The national alert system means that anyone who comes into contact with emerging methods of suicide will have a direct link to report in to central government to report. Alerts will be circulated to "all authorities who should be aware", so they can take action. If the method is being used by children or young people, every school and head teacher in the country will receive an alert.

The government will also work more closely with the police to use its data on "suspected" suicides, as well as with the Office for National Statistics, to get an indication of trends, it said. A monthly report will be published showing the latest findings.

The government pledged that at least half of all pupils in schools across England would have access to a dedicated mental health support team by the end of March 2025. These teams will intervene where a mild-to-moderate mental health issue is identified.

The government will also explore whether regulatory change is required to reduce how many tablets such as paracetamol can be sold at once. Steve Mallen, co-founder of the Zero Suicide Alliance, said the strategy showed a "clear intention to save lives and improve wellbeing".

The strategy will focus on middle-aged men by ensuring that employers in male-dominated industries have support in place for staff.

The government is also working to sponsor a project for women who have had suicidal thoughts or self-harmed and present with risk factors before or after giving birth.

Kenneth Law was arrested in Canada and has been charged with 14 offences of aiding suicide in his home country. The NCA is investigating if there is evidence to bring charges in the UK. Law's poison was legal to sell and classed as "reportable" in the UK, meaning that buyers do not need a Home Office licence to buy it.

The government said that it has worked with businesses handling potentially dangerous substances "to significantly reduce access to them".



Kenneth Law was linked to 88 suicides in Britain

The tragic toll on people who have nowhere to turn

Maria Caulfield
Comment

Every suicide is a tragedy. It devastates the families and friends of those who take their own lives. It leaves a void that can never be filled and raises questions about whether the death could have been prevented had the right support and safeguards been in place.

As minister for mental health I have had heartbreaking encounters with those affected by suicide. I have heard how lives have been needlessly ended by the turmoil caused by mental health problems.

We will do all we can to support people going through a crisis that could, without intervention, lead them to taking their own life.

Today we have set a firm target to lower the toll of these tragic losses as part of a new National Suicide Prevention Strategy. The government will work tirelessly with our partners to ensure that the suicide rate in England is reduced within two and a half years. Our ambitions are backed by more than a hundred actions to provide early interventions, tackle emerging suicide methods and remove material online that encourages people to harm themselves.

Sadly there are some who seek to exploit people going through such crises. That is why our new strategy will help to close the clinical loopholes that have been wickedly used by some, such as Kenneth Law, and exposed by The Times.

We will work with countries around the world to target and stop suppliers of dangerous and lethal substances at the source.

We will also create a new national alert system, so that when an emerging method or risk is identified the relevant authorities will be notified and can take action.

First responders will be given updated guidance about how to react at the scene of an incident and we will make better use of data to ensure that we capture real-time trends in the number of suicides.

We know who is at risk. Middle-aged men have had the highest rates of suicide since 2010 and it is a heart-rending fact that in the UK suicide is one of the leading cause of deaths in women up to a year after the end of pregnancy.

We are investing an extra £2.3 billion a year by March 2024 to expand NHS mental health services. We also recently set up a £10 million grant for the voluntary and charity sector, who play a vital role.

At the heart of this are people who feel as if they have nowhere to go or no one to turn to. Our work will help to ensure that they get the support they deserve, and save lives.

Maria Caulfield is the minister for mental health



ABTA Travel with confidence

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Perfect place for a peaceful night … the luxury War Office hotel

Ben Clatworthy Travel Correspondent

PATRICK WILLIAMSON







The majestic Old War Office, where Winston Churchill made decisions that shaped the future of Europe, is now home to London's first Raffles hotel, flats, a spa and nine restaurants

It is a building so heavily steeped in history and mystery that only a select group walked its hallowed corridors when it was the nerve centre of Britain's war effort.

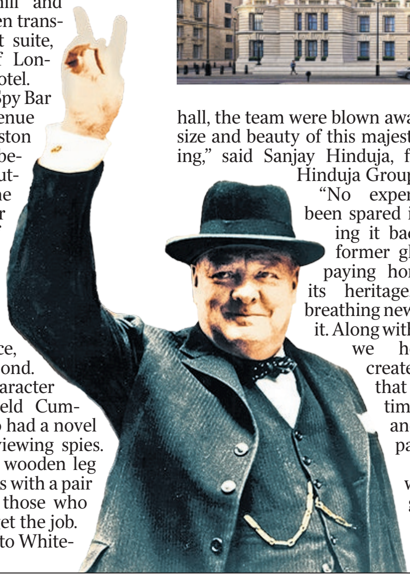
Between Downing Street and the Thames, the Old War Office, with its turrets, spires and grand marble staircase, was once used by Winston Churchill, the war minister John Profumo, whose career ended in disgrace over a sex and spying scandal, and the author Ian Fleming. Now the doors to the former government building will open to the public for the first time with the arrival of The OWO, a new destination in the heart of Whitehall.

The immense building, which had 2.5 miles of corridors as the war office, will house a complex that includes a 120-bedroom, five-star Raffles hotel, nine restaurants, three bars, a spa, gym, cinema and 85 flats that promise to breathe new life into a corner of London that often gets overlooked by those outside the Westminster bubble.

The Hinduja Group, run by Britain's richest family, paid £350 million in 2014 to buy the building on a 250-year lease from the Ministry of Defence but the renovation of the grade II* listed Edwardian property has been beset by delays, including during the pandemic.

Those who have explored the building after its £1 billion transformation say they have been wowed.

The secretary of state for war's office, now the Haldane Suite, was occupied by figures such as Lord Haldane, Asquith, Kitchener, Churchill and Profumo. It has been transformed into a vast suite, the centrepiece of London's first Raffles hotel.



Downstairs, the Spy Bar is a spectacular venue with half an Aston Martin mounted behind the bar. Reputedly driven in the film *Spectre*, the car is a nod to one of the building's other famous occupants — Fleming who, during his time in the naval intelligence office, dreamt up James Bond.

He based the character M on Sir Mansfield Cumming, his boss, who had a novel approach to interviewing spies. He would stab his wooden leg through his trousers with a pair of compasses and those who flinched wouldn't get the job.

"When we came to Whitehall, the team were blown away by the size and beauty of this majestic building," said Sanjay Hinduja, from the Hinduja Group.

"No expense has been spared in bringing it back to its former glory and paying homage to its heritage, whilst breathing new life into it. Along with Raffles, we hope to create a legacy that is both timeless and unsurpassed."

Guests will be greeted by the huge marble staircase that Churchill ascended each day as he co-ordinated the war.

At the foot are two lions beneath the banister and a chandelier so large that a company usually responsible for installing nuclear rods was enlisted to fix it to the ceiling.

The flats are accessed from the Spies entrance at the rear and are understood to have been snapped up by the likes of Rebel Wilson, the Australian actress, and Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor of New York.

Todd Leland, the president of Goldman Sachs International, and King Caesar Augustus Mulenga of Uganda are also believed to have acquired flats.

The developers hope that its nine restaurants will put the building, and the area, on the culinary map. Venues, which will be open to the public, include Café Lapérouse, a Parisian-inspired restaurant, Langosteria, an Italian restaurant, and a Japanese-influenced rooftop restaurant.

The hotel has collaborated with Mauro Colagreco, the chef behind Mirazur on the Côte d'Azur, to create three dining experiences. At his signature restaurant, Mauro Colagreco at Raffles London at The OWO, there will be fine dining inspired by the seasons, with a focus on the "rich diversity of native British vegetables".

A more relaxed venue, Saison, will, according to Raffles, "put a modern spin on the traditional hotel restaurant". Occupying a former historic library, the brasserie-style restaurant will serve Mediterranean cuisine.

The hotel will be opened by the Princess Royal this month.

Omer Acar, the chief executive of Raffles, said the chain sought "astonishing settings" and the Old War Office was a natural home for it.

Caribbean leaders call for slavery reparations

Tom Whipple

The royal family and the Church of England are set to receive demands for slavery reparations from Caribbean countries, it has been reported.

Amid frustration about the response of the British government to demands from leaders in the region, The Sunday Telegraph reported that reparations commissions are planning to approach institutions with links to the slave trade.

This would also include Lloyd's of London, which was involved in insuring ships involved in the slave trade. The royal family made money from its share of the Royal Africa Company, which traded in slaves.

The Church of England has investigated its links to slavery, finding that it benefited from a fund that invested in the South Sea Company, which transported 34,000 people. The investigation concluded the investors "would have known that it was trading in enslaved people."

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "Only by … addressing our past transparently can we take the path that Jesus Christ calls us to walk."

Last month Dickon Mitchell, the prime minister of Grenada, called on the UK to pay reparations.

Arley Gill, chairman of the Grenada Reparations Commission, told The Sunday Telegraph that it was investigating bypassing the government and going to institutions, including the royal family, individually.

"We are hoping that King Charles will revisit the issue of reparations and make a more profound statement beginning with an apology, and that he would make resources from the royal family available for reparative justice," the paper reported.

The decision to send letters directly to institutions was in part inspired, the paper reported, by the actions of Laura Trevelyan, a former BBC journalist who gave £100,000 in reparations.

She is part of a group of former slave-owning and slave-trading families called Heirs of Slavery, which has looked at ways to confront their and the UK's role in slavery. "Since the Laura Trevelyan initiative, there has been a buzz, among our leaders in the Caribbean, that this thing ought to happen," Gill told The Sunday Telegraph.

Adrian Odle, chairman of the Reparations Commission for St Vincent and the Grenadines, said that he would be sending the letters by the end of this year.

Buckingham Palace was approached for comment.

Harry wins charm offensive but fails football test in Germany

Oliver Moody Berlin

There was a time when the humiliation of a prince of the United Kingdom by the commander-in-chief of the German armed forces might have had quite serious diplomatic consequences.

Fortunately for Prince Harry, the result was nothing worse than a red face and the obligation to wear a German football scarf as a forfeit.

Challenged to kick a ball through two holes in a wall on German national television, the Duke of Sussex failed to score a single point, before looking on as Boris Pistorius, the German defence minister, chipped his first two attempts neatly through the hole.

Harry's appearance on *Das aktuelle Sportstudio*, ZDF's primetime sports programme, was intended to promote the Invictus Games, the annual world tournament for injured soldiers and veterans that he founded in 2014.

After the opening ceremony in Düsseldorf he hitched a lift with Pistorius on a German air force helicopter to the public broadcaster's headquarters in Mainz. Harry started strongly, greeting the viewers with the words "Guten Abend, meine Damen und Herren" (Good evening, ladies and gentlemen).

He praised Germany for the flair with which it was hosting the games.

He also recalled how he had come back from a tour of duty in Afghanistan on a plane shared with several wounded soldiers. "When you're confronted with something like that, it changes your life," he said. Harry said he had come to recognise that the Invictus Games had been "a bit of a lifeline for me" amid the psychological troubles after leaving the military.

However, the ritual of the *Torwand* ("goal-wall") posed greater difficulties. The challenge was to shoot a football at two targets in a goal from six yards.



Harry at the Invictus Games' opening ceremony in Düsseldorf, Germany

"What happens if [I score] zero?" he asked. "You have to wear a German jersey," his host replied. His first two efforts went straight down the middle, missing the target by a couple of feet. The other four were closer.

Pistorius, Germany's most popular politician, then tucked his first two shots straight through the gap.

"Is that the new football coach for Germany now?" Harry said.

In the end he was spared the indignity of having to wear the German national team's shirt, as the mayor of Mainz handed him a scarf to wear from the local football club.

Police raided uncle's home hours before fugitive arrest

Duncan Gardham

The terrorism suspect who escaped from prison was tracked down hours after the police raided his uncle's home.

Armed officers descended on a cul-de-sac in Kew, southwest London, at 11.30pm on Friday and told people to leave as they searched for Daniel Khalife, who had been on the run from Wandsworth for almost three days.

Earlier in the day the blinds had been drawn at the maisonette and a chess board and pot plants could be seen on the windowsill.

A woman, thought to be the uncle's wife, had briefly visited the house and left saying she was going to work. She declined to talk about Khalife. About 12 hours later the police turned up.

One neighbour said: "I was woken by the sound. There were three Swat vehicles and six or seven police officers in helmets calling out to the residents in the house to leave the premises. They were here for two hours, searching the garden, and a van came later to pick up the occupants. It was pretty scary. After all the searches that were in the news in Richmond Park and around the area, we assumed it was to do with [the hunt for the suspect]."

Another neighbour said: "We were sitting in the lounge watching a movie and we heard the police forcefully opening the door. They were asking who was in the house, asking them to come out. The man said he couldn't walk and he had to be helped out.

"There were more than 20 officers in all and they were here until 3am, with two helicopters overhead. We had been tracking the manhunt so we assumed it was to do with that and we definitely locked our door afterwards."

Commander Dominic Murphy of the Metropolitan Police said the investigation had "really gathered momentum" on Friday afternoon with a number of calls from the public but "really took a different course" when they did an "intelligence-led search" in the Richmond borough area.

They did not find Khalife but between 2am and 3am police had another breakthrough. "While we were at that address and having completed our search of the location, we had our first call at Spencer Road in Chiswick, from a member of the public who had seen him in the street.

"That's very nearby to where we were searching anyway and we then deployed officers there and subsequently had further sightings in the Church Street and Chiswick Mall area where, again, we deployed a number of officers. We consider those to be confirmed sightings of him.

"Then as a result of that activity and a number of other intelligence checks that we were doing at the time, we continued to deploy officers in that area."

The police used helicopters and sniffer dogs to continue the search and used MI5 surveillance techniques.

Khalife was arrested at 10.41am by an officer in plain clothes on a canal towpath near Rowdell Road in Northolt, about eight miles from Chiswick and 14 miles from the prison,

"He was riding a pedal cycle at the time and was pulled off that and pushed back by that officer," Murphy said. "Upon being detained by the officer he was fully co-operative and was then handcuffed and arrested."

Calls to the police had increased substantially on Friday night and in the early hours of Saturday when "a number of people pointed us in that direction", he said.

Murphy added that the police had been working "really closely with our partners in the intelligence agencies", including MI5, for the first time running an investigation from the new counter-terrorism operations centre.

Khalife is thought to have cycled along the Thames to Brentford Lock and then up the Grand Union Canal.

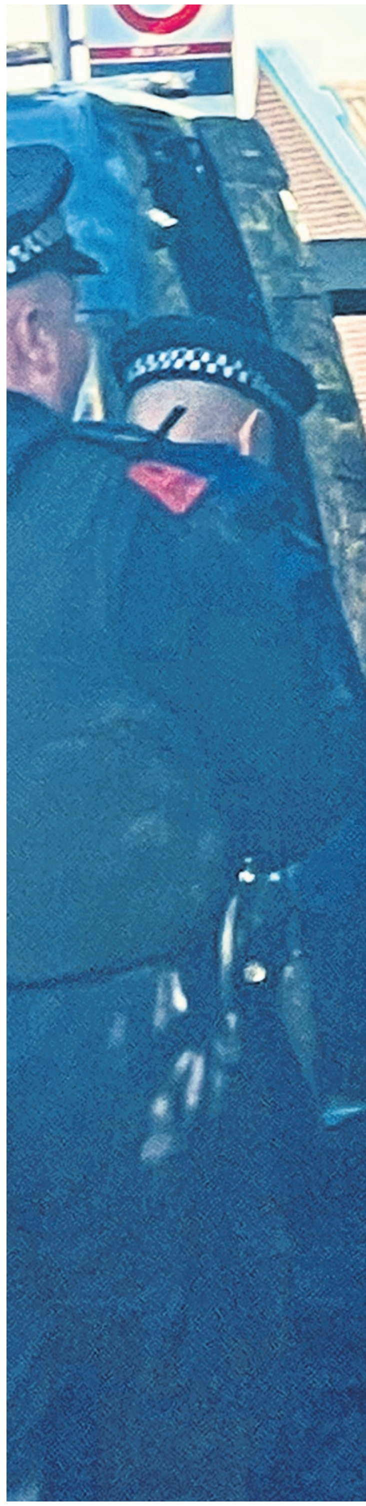
The police are investigating where he got his blue mountain bike, a sleeping bag and change of clothes and the food he appears to have been carrying in a Waitrose bag.

Although he had escaped in red and white checked trousers from his job in the prison kitchen, he was captured wearing shorts and had earlier been seen in a black baseball cap, black T-shirt and dark trousers.

Khalife has been charged with escaping from prison and will appear in court this morning.

No one has been arrested or charged with helping him to escape.





'He was

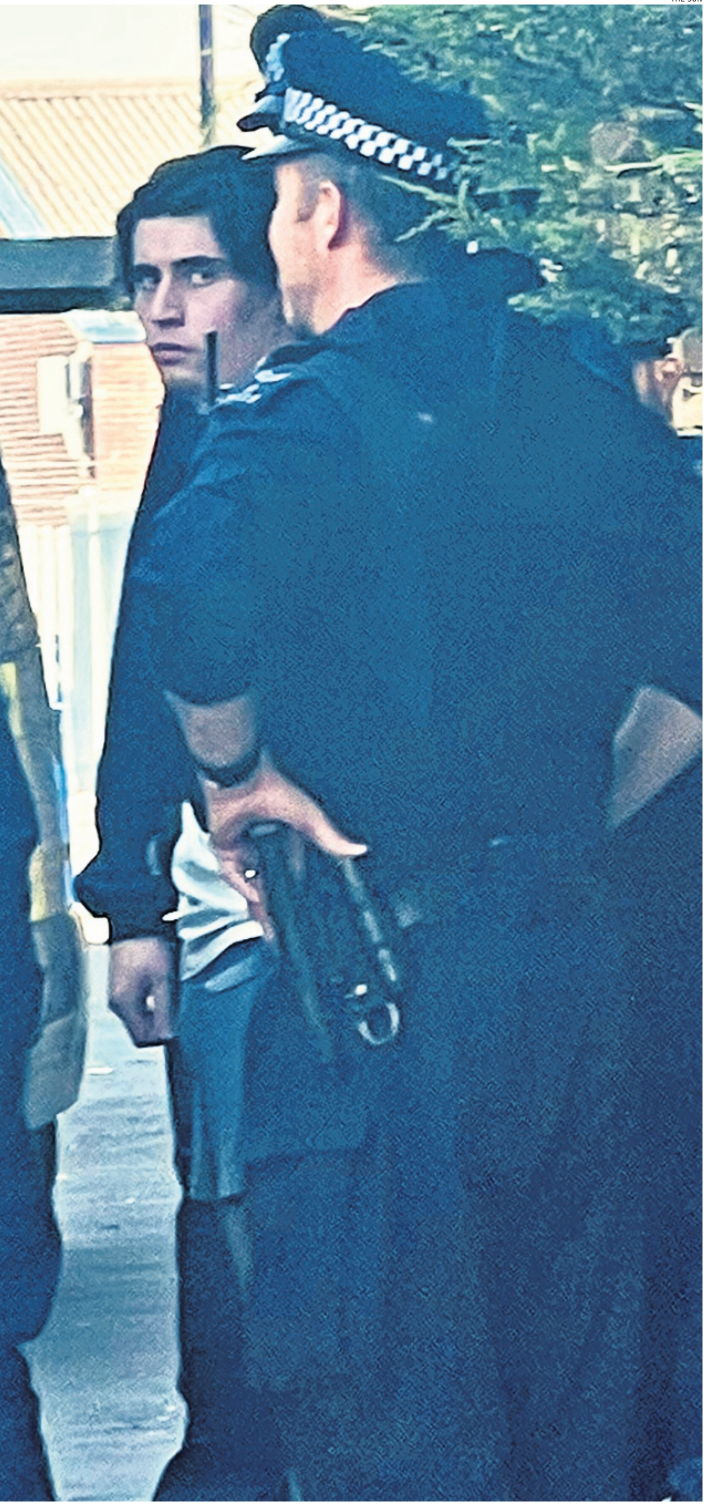
Ben Ellery

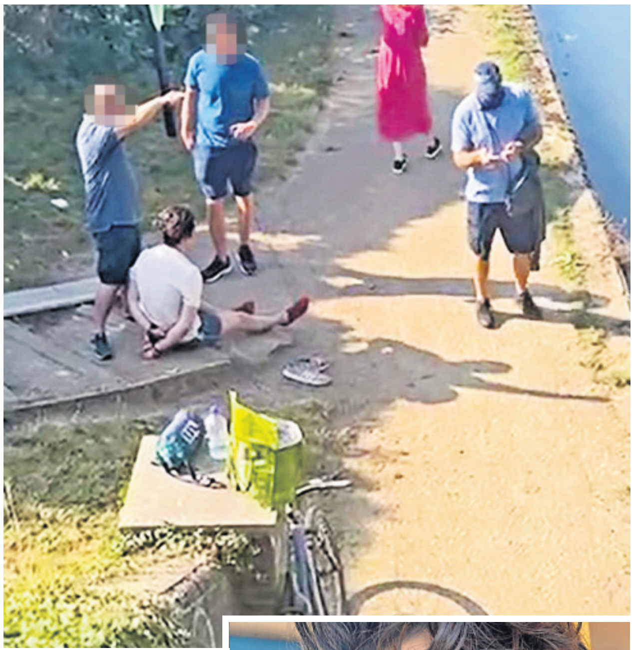
The peace and quiet of a road by the River Thames in Chiswick, west London, was disturbed at 2am on Saturday by police officers searching for Daniel Khalife.

A local WhatsApp group came to life while a helicopter circled overhead and officers with dogs made house-to-house inquiries, waking up the vicar of the street's church.

One housekeeper on the road told The Times: "It was like something from a movie. I could hear the dog and I thought, 'Why is it barking at this time?' The police came in and spoke to owners of a few of the houses. There were many police cars and the helicopter was non-

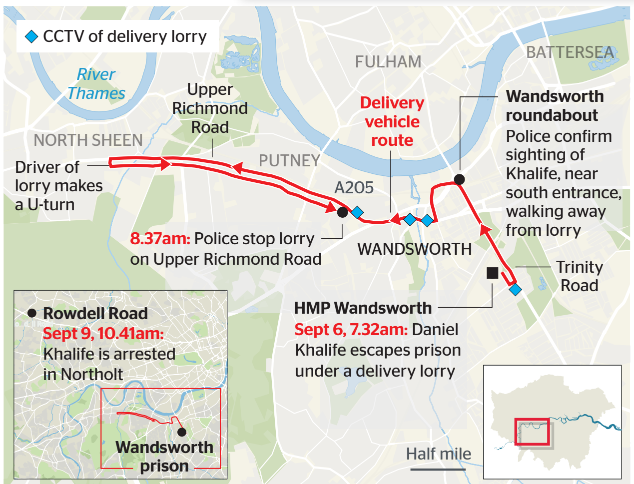
THE SUN





Daniel Khalife was arrested on the canal towpath near Rowdell Road in Northolt, west London, after he was pulled from a blue mountain bike by a police officer in plain clothes. He was said to have been co-operative when he was apprehended and handcuffed on Saturday. He had been missing from Wandsworth prison since Wednesday





Two prison guards are suspended after escape

David Brown

Two guards at Wandsworth prison have been suspended after the escape of Daniel Khalife and a former prisons minister said he believed that the alleged spy had received "some kind of collusion and support".

The suspended guards are said to have overseen the exit of a food delivery van at the prison, which Khalife is thought to have used to escape by hanging on to straps underneath.

Dozens of higher-risk inmates have been moved out of the category B prison in south London after a review of why the former soldier was not being held in a highest-security jail.

Khalife, 21, who is awaiting trial on charges of terrorism and suspected spying on behalf of Iran, was caught on Saturday after four days on the run.

The escape investigation is understood to centre on junior "operational support-grade" prison officers responsible for checking the underside of the lorry using mirrors.

A Whitehall source said they could not discuss "internal disciplinary matters", suggesting that they were not considered to be involved in criminal wrongdoing.

Khalife had been working in the prison kitchen when he escaped.

Rory Stewart, a prisons minister from January 2018 to May 2019, told Sky News it was his opinion that "there was some kind of collusion and support".

Yesterday Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, insisted that the correct security protocols and staff had been in place at the time of the escape. "Those protocols were in place," he told Sky News. "And the relevant security staff were also in place. Plainly what we've yet to establish is whether those protocols were followed."

Chalk will set out the terms of reference this week of a separate independent investigation to ensure that the conclusions are "rock solid". They are expected to include why Khalife was given a job usually reserved for trusted, low-risk inmates.

Sir Mark Rowley, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, said last week that officers were exploring whether Khalife was helped and suggested that his escape had been planned.

Yesterday at Wandsworth a 24-year-old prisoner was stabbed and critically injured by another inmate, but he is expected to survive. The incident is not thought to be linked to the escape.

Prison reform, letters, page 26

just sitting there with his phone — so I rang 999'

stop. You don't expect things like that around here because it is a very respectable, quiet neighbourhood."

The police had arrived after a flurry of sightings in the area. Frank Noon made what he believed were two sightings of Khalife on Friday. At 7am he was taking a morning run when he saw a young man asleep on a bench at Chiswick Bridge. "He didn't look like a rough sleeper," he said. "He was in his twenties and seemed quite fit. He wasn't grubby and had a cap pulled down over his face. He had light jogging bottoms and a T-shirt."

Noon did not think much of it until 10am when he saw the man again in a hut at Chiswick Old Cemetery. "I did a double take with him because it was the person I saw on the bench. He was just sitting there scrolling on his phone.

"I spoke to two people coming in the opposite direction who said they had seen the man. I wasn't sure but called 999 and they took all the details. As the advice was to not approach, I didn't follow him immediately. It was only a few hours later when all hell seemed to break loose."

Ann Colgan said: "The police turned up almost immediately, the cemetery has four or five entrances and they were searching it. He'd gone by then as I went and had a look myself."

The Metropolitan Police confirmed that it was treating the Chiswick sightings of Khalife as genuine and it was possible that he had arrived in the suburb on Thursday evening. Khalife escaped from Wandsworth prison on Wednesday by clinging to a food delivery van as it left the grounds at 7.32am. He was declared missing at 7.50am and the police were notified at 8.15am.

The van was stopped in Upper Richmond Road near the junction with Carlton Drive in Putney, southwest London, at 8.37am. Khalife was first spotted walking away from the van at Wandsworth roundabout. On Friday the police turned their attention to Richmond Park, which is about four miles from HMP Wandsworth and is an area known to Khalife.

Sightings of him in Chiswick began to emerge on Friday. Gabriella Lewis told BBC News that on Friday morning she had spoken to a man sitting on a bench in the gardens at Chiswick House who she believed was Khalife. She said that during a conversation in which they talked about the hot weather, he appeared "gentle and sweet" and was affectionate to her dog, saying that he had just come out of the army.

Residents in Chiswick were being stopped and asked to provide ID and open their car boots. Later on Metropolitan Police units were sent to various roads in Chiswick including Pumping Station Road, Chiswick Mall and Church Street.

Dominic Murphy, who leads the Met's counterterrorism command, said the investigation "really took a different course [on Friday night] when we did an intelligence-led search in the Richmond area". He added: "Whilst we didn't find him at that search, while we were at that search we had a number of calls from the public over the next hour or two, giving us various sightings of him."

At about 11.30pm on Friday the police raided the home of Khalife's uncle in Richmond, which borders Chiswick. At 9am on Saturday the Met said that the focus of the search had switched to Chiswick.

At about 10.30am the police largely moved out of the area before it was confirmed that a plain-clothes police officer had tackled Khalife as he was riding by the Grand Union Canal in Northolt, about five miles away, at 10.41am.



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Simple but spicy: pickleball pulls in thousands of new competitors

Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Pickleball may sound like something you could get stuck in your throat during a hearty ploughman's lunch but it is one of the fastest-growing sports in Britain.

Combining elements of tennis, table tennis and badminton, the game is booming, thanks in part to its popularity among celebrities in America, where it was invented about 50 years ago.

The number of pickleball clubs in the UK has doubled to nearly 400 over the past two years and there are now more than 12,000 registered players. And hundreds competed last month in the English Open.

Proponents say the game could ultimately rival or even overtake the popularity of other racket sports. Pickleball is probably most similar to tennis although the serving and scoring rules borrow from table tennis and badminton. Matches are played as singles or doubles on a court about a third the size of tennis. Players use solid paddles to hit a lightweight, perforated plastic ball over a low net.

The close proximity of players means the sport involves less sprinting than tennis, making it attractive to a wider audience. But advocates say its main appeal is how fun it is — and easy to pick up.

"It's not too fast and appeals to all ages," said Jack Chapman, the managing director of Pickleball Complete, a retailer of pickleball equipment. "It's a lot of fun."

Karen Mitchell, the chair of Pickleball England, which runs the sport in England, believes that the game's accessibility is the key to its rapid growth. "Anyone can pick it up, and within 30 minutes they can be playing. You don't have to have lots of lessons." However, she admits that pickleball's popularity among celebrities has also made a difference. Players include Matthew Perry, a star of *Friends*, Amanda Peet, the Hollywood actress, and Kim Kardashian, the reality TV mogul. Peet recently confessed to playing so much that she had developed tennis elbow. Leonardo DiCaprio is also said to be a keen player, insisting on a game before filming.

On this side of the Atlantic, Emma Watson, the English actress, is known to play, even having appeared in a celebrity tournament.

Mitchell said: "People read about the sport and think, 'If it's good enough for them, maybe it's good enough for me'."

The huge increase in players is creating an entire new industry in accessories and equipment.



Chapman only started Pickleball Complete less than a year ago but said that business was booming. "We've been table tennis specialists for the last 30 or 40 years and got into pickleball through that. Someone recommended the game and we really enjoyed it. About nine months ago we set up the website and demand is exploding."

Pickleball clubs have sprung up across the country although there are concentrations in the home counties and the north west. Most clubs play indoors on adapted badminton courts in leisure centres but growing numbers of homeowners are installing courts, which costs about £30,000. Increasing numbers of tennis clubs are also converting their courts to dual use. Herne Bay in Kent is one such club.

Ron Withers, the head of pickleball at the club, said that nearly half of its members now played it regularly and that there were 40 per cent more entrants for the club pickleball tournament than for the tennis. While pickleball is generally played for fun there is a competitive scene. The English Open in Telford had more than 1,000 entries. The winner and runner up in the men's tournament both came from the West Herts Wizards Pickleball Club in Berkhamsted.

The origin of the sport's unusual name is unclear although some say it is because one of the founder's dogs was named Pickles.

SONJA FLEMMING/CBS/GETTY IMAGES



Emma Watson, competing at a celebrity tournament in Los Angeles, and the Duchess of Edinburgh are among the many Britons to have a go at pickleball

Newsnight journalists 'face chop' in cost cuts

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Newsnight's investigative format could be changed as the BBC seeks savings.

Talks about the future of BBC2's news and current affairs programme include doing away with its team of correspondents in favour of a debate-led programme, as well as broadcasting it earlier than its present 10.30pm slot.

Its future has been the subject of speculation for a while, however, this has intensified as the BBC tries to find £400 million of annual savings.

Newsnight's average audience has slipped from 565,000 in 2020 to 365,000 this year. It is estimated by insiders to cost about £8 million per year, and there are suggestions that the aim is to cut its budget to nearer £3 million.

Several insiders said the only way to achieve big savings was to reduce the programme's staff. This would sweep away the decision to allow it to retain its own journalists during a centralised restructure in January 2020, when most divisions — including Radio 4's news programmes — had to pool resources.

One executive said: "The restructure washed out lots of costs but it wasn't enough. Like everything that airs on linear TV late at night, one look at the ratings must make anyone question whether *Newsnight* still has the same role as it did in previous years."

Another person close to the show said that the idea of changing it into a discussion-led show would create less controversy than cancellation. They said: "The staff will be outraged but it is enormously expensive and not enough people are watching it."

Its future is understood to remain high on the agenda of Deborah Turness, chief executive of BBC News, and Tim Davie, the director general. One insider said: "If they want to make real savings that will come from shedding correspondents. It costs money to send people out and make films."

Supporters of the show warned against the impact of tinkering with the brand and several said that heading towards a general election was a poor time to introduce any changes.

The BBC declined to comment.



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News

University 'for more than getting a job'

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Scottish universities value degrees as an intellectual challenge rather than just as a means to get a job, the new head of vice-chancellors has implied.

Professor Dame Sally Mapstone, principal and vice-chancellor of St Andrews University and president of Universities UK, told The Times that it would be regrettable to focus too much on vocational degrees at the expense of learning for its own sake. English universities are under pressure from the Office for Students to hit targets for students getting into professional jobs soon after graduation.

Mapstone, who is English, said her time at St Andrews had taught her "something of the value of a degree". She added: "I think Scotland maintains a belief, a kind of Enlightenment belief, in the value of education as an adventure in development."

Robert Halfon, the skills, apprenticeships and higher education minister, said last week that he personally would like half of students to take degree apprenticeships, such as those offered by engineering and accountancy firms.

Asked if the Westminster government was too focused on the more vocational side of university, Mapstone said: "I understand entirely why vocational degrees are seen as important. I completely get that but I think it's regrettable if we lose sight of the other element of going to university, which is that it enables you to grow and challenge and experiment."

After the pandemic most universities are still putting lectures online, leading to concerns that students will not attend. Mapstone said there was little evidence that students skipped in-person lectures. "There's more evidence that they go back to the old world of lecture as a means of checking," she said. "Students value the in-person experience."

She told vice-chancellors at a conference last week that by 2025 funding per student in England would be the lowest in nearly 25 years and worth only £5,800 at 2012 prices, the year that tuition fees doubled to £9,000. They have hardly risen since then.

"Last year UK universities incurred an annual £1 billion loss in teaching domestic students," she said. "This situation must not persist. It threatens the opportunity for future students to have access to properly resourced and high-quality higher education simply due to when they were born."

Schools have been hit with the Raac crisis at the start of term and many new universities opened in the 1960s, when the material was widely used. "Institutions are looking really hard at how they can balance the budgets, and are obviously trying to plan for years ahead. [Then] something comes in somewhat from leftfield like this. If you're running a very prudent budget which most of us certainly are, it has the capacity to knock you."

DANNY LAWSON/PA



Sweet spots An Amur leopard cub, the only one born in Europe this year to have survived, takes its first steps outside with its mother at Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Care leavers fall behind in degree places

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

Care leavers make up only 0.4 per cent of undergraduates at Britain's leading universities, research has shown.

The think tank Civitas found that students who were known by universities to have spent time in care accounted for 0.8 per cent, or 15,555, of the 1.95 million undergraduates in 2021-22. The proportion for the 24 top Russell Group institutions was half that figure.

According to the think tank's analysis of Department for Education data, 14 per cent of care leavers under 19 started university in 2021-22, compared with 47 per cent of non-care leavers.

Frank Young, research director at Civitas who co-authored the report, said: "We need to break the care ceiling for care leavers getting into university. It is still sadly the case that a care leaver is more likely to end up in a prison cell than a lecture theatre. We need higher aspirations for some of our most disadvantaged young people.

"It isn't just about universities: we need to help young people from care stay on in education beyond their GCSEs … The good news is, once they graduate, the earnings gap between care leavers and non-care leavers all but disappears."

The think tank suggested a Scottish-style "scholarship" scheme to help care leavers into higher education. This method has resulted in a tripling of care leavers at Scottish universities.

Alarm over invasion of Asian hornets

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

The first sign the Asian hornets had arrived at Simon Spratley's beehives was at the end of July. A week later he caught one preying on his bees, and experts at the National Bee Unit arrived within the hour, fresh from destroying three of the invasive species' nests in nearby Folkestone.

Just weeks later, 12 out of his 17 hives at Capel-le-Ferne, Kent, had been in effect destroyed as their colonies collapsed under the assault. On an average year he loses one or two hives.

"We've never lost this many hives just to wasps. We're at a point now where Asian hornets are established in the UK. Not enough is being done about them," said Spratley, a pest controller by day, who mostly keeps the bees as a hobby and to train other beekeepers.

This week a UN report warned that invasive species were threatening biodiversity and costing £336 billion a year. Confirmed sightings of the Asian hornet are rising in the UK: 22 of the 45 since 2016 have been this year. That dramatic rise has spooked beekeepers.

However, experts maintain that the Asian hornet — first officially seen in the UK seven years ago — has not yet established a foothold on these shores, as it has in France.

Professor Helen Roy, an author of the UN report, said the UK situation with the hornets was "intense" but swift detection and destruction of nests was stemming the tide. "Eradication is resulting in the UK not having established populations of the Asian hornet," Roy said. She added that each month

GEMMA DAY FOR THE TIMES; SIMON SPRATLEY



Twelve of Simon Spratley's 17 hives have been destroyed by Asian hornets, right

the Asian Hornet Watch app was receiving thousands of possible sightings of the hornets from the public, though only a small number were verified as correct. One expert said just 0.1 per cent of sightings turned out to be Asian hornets.

Nonetheless, in a sign of mounting concern among beekeepers, some are investing in more traps while others are undertaking training. August and September are the peak months for hornet activity, and the big worry is what happens next year if nests are missed this autumn. Diane Drinkwater, chairwoman of the British Beekeepers Association, said: "We are very concerned about the potential for this to be an even bigger problem next year."

The impacts are not just on beekeepers. Bees are a key plank of Britain's pollinator army, which is declining yet vital for food production, everything from apples to oilseed rape. There is also the human health impact of being stung, which Roy said she was concerned about, although she noted its sting was no worse than a European hornet.

In Kent, a hotspot of recent nest destruction and considered to be the front line in the pest's spread, beekeepers are vigilant. "I think it's safe to say that there is no greater risk on the immediate horizon to honeybees at this time," said Steve Clarkson, secretary of the Kent Beekeepers Association.

Manek Dubash, the Asian hornet team co-ordinator for Brighton and Lewes Beekeepers, feared the UK could eventually be overcome by the invader. "With the warming climate, the likelihood of queens overwintering grows and it seems inevitable that sooner or later we will be facing a full-on onslaught," he said.

Beekeepers praised the National Bee Unit's quick actions, but they have criticisms. The unit has just five people in each of its south, north and Wales groups, and Clarkson said the unit did not have enough resources from the government. Spratley wants the unit to be more transparent and detailed with locations of nests, and said broad geographical warnings would be ignored by beekeepers who could put out extra traps if more localised alerts were offered.

Do Tories pass sewage sniff test?

Adam Vaughan

More than half of the public will weigh the government's handling of sewage spills into how they vote at next year's election.

Polling of 6,000 adults by Survation, a research company, found that discharges into rivers and seas will affect how more than 56 per cent of people vote. The figure rose to 66 per cent among those who voted Labour at the 2019 election, and dipped to 51 per cent among Tory voters.

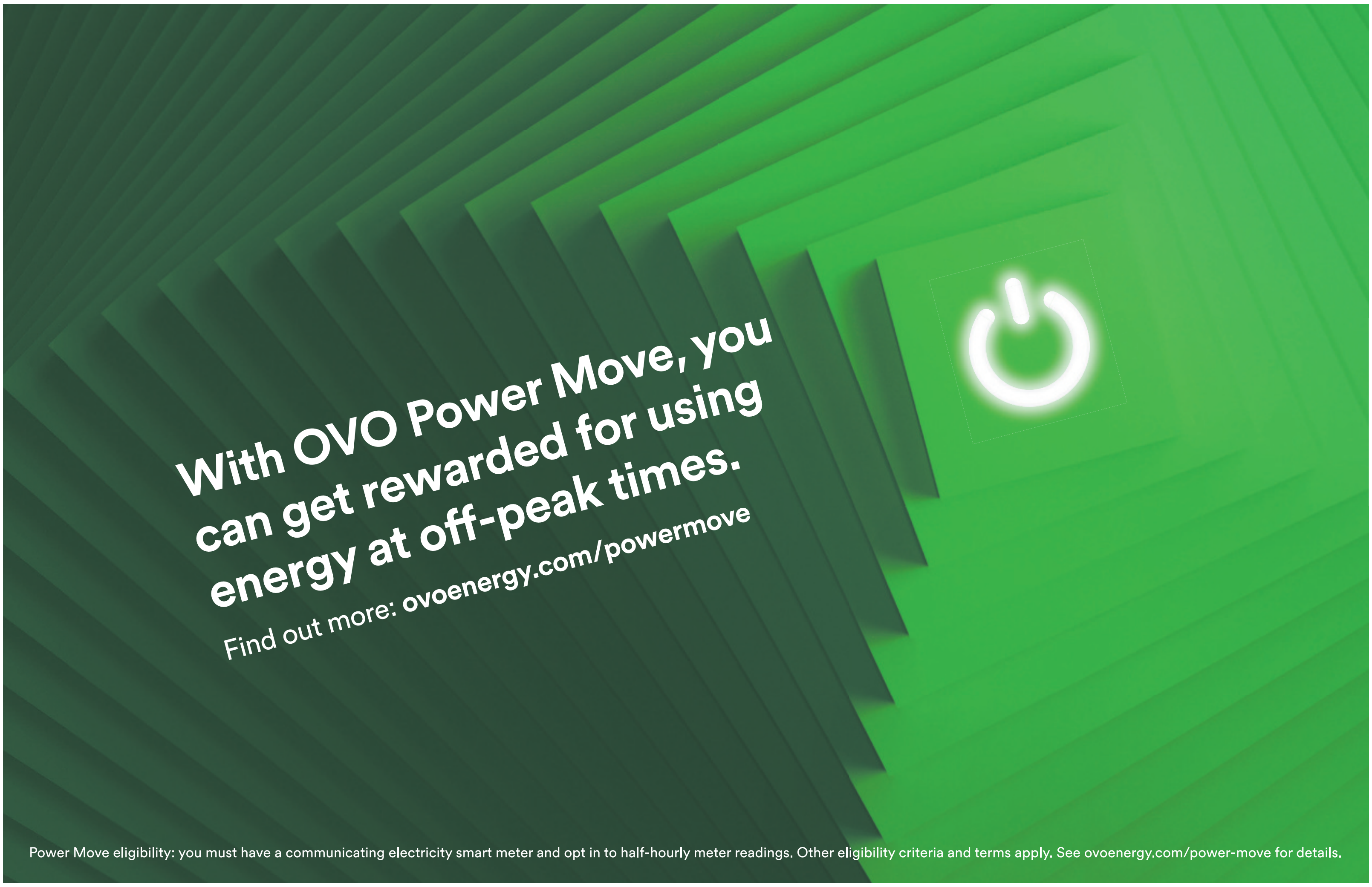
However, there are 31 Conservative seats, including the prime minister's in Richmond, Yorkshire, and the chancellor's in South West Surrey, where the figure jumps to 60 per cent or more.

The results suggest political pain over sewage pollution for the Conservatives, given the government was found by a watchdog to have weakened environmental protections by dropping river rules last month to boost housebuilding.

Siobhan Harley, the campaigns director at the not-for-profit 38 Degrees, which commissioned the research, said: "This polling makes the political cost of the fouling of Britain's rivers and seas clear."

The Times' Clean it Up campaign has been calling for stronger regulation and more investment to improve water quality across rivers and seas.

Nurturing nature, letters, page 26



TIME PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Convoy of colour More than 400 former naval personnel marched past the Cenotaph at their biennial remembrance parade

Mayor splashed taxpayer cash on legal advice

George Greenwood
Investigations Reporter

The mayor of Teesside spent taxpayer cash getting legal advice on whether he could sue a Labour MP and Private Eye after the politician accused him of corruption.

Lord Houchen of High Leven, ennobled by Boris Johnson in his resignation honours this year, has been embroiled in a war of words over the Teesworks project to convert a former steelworks into an industrial park.

Concerns have been raised about the mayor's handling of the project, which has received more than £200 million in taxpayer funding, and the transfer of 90 per cent of its shares to two local developers, Chris Musgrave and Martin Corney, between 2020 and 2021 without a public tender process. Questions have been asked about the risks the taxpayer has taken on and whether the deal offered value for money.

There is no suggestion of any legal or regulatory breaches by Musgrave or Corney.

The Labour MP Andy McDonald used parliamentary privilege to allege "industrial-scale corruption" relating to the development in April.

Houchen fought back against these claims, calling McDonald a "liar and a coward", and challenging him to repeat the accusation outside of parliament.

The news magazine Private Eye has been investigating at length how the deal was struck.

The Times can now reveal that the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) spent £7,000 on legal advice from Carter Ruck, a media law firm that specialises in defamation cases and dispute resolution, according to contract details published by the public body. TVCA confirmed that the spending was incurred because "the organisation sought advice and options on taking legal action against Andy McDonald MP and Private Eye".

Use of taxpayer cash to explore legal action by public bodies in this manner is unusual. Local authorities are unable to sue under libel law and MPs cannot be sued for what they say in the Commons under parliamentary privilege.

The concerns about the project led to Michael Gove, the levelling up secretary, appointing an external panel to investigate the claims relating to the Teesworks project. The panel will be headed by Angie Ridgwell, chief executive of Lancashire county council, and previously a director-general at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Gove said that his department had seen "no evidence of corruption, wrongdoing or illegality", but the review would look at specific allegations levelled at the project and more broadly at governance, decision-making processes and value to the taxpayer.

Houchen welcomed the move, saying that allegations of wrongdoing were "starting to have a negative impact on the prospects of the local community".

McDonald said: "TVCA don't have, and never had, a cause of action against me. They didn't need to waste public money getting lawyers to provide confirmation of what was glaringly obvious."

Ian Hislop, the editor of Private Eye, said the spending was an "interesting use of public money earmarked for the regeneration of Teesside. Good to see Lord Houchen supporting one of the most deprived sectors in Britain — London libel lawyers!"

A TVCA spokesman said: "The decision to seek legal advice was made following a series of articles by Private Eye and comments made by Middlesbrough MP Andy McDonald. False and unfounded allegations of misconduct and impropriety have been made against STDC [South Tees Development Corporation] and its joint venture partner Teesworks Ltd."

The spokesman said that the success of the project "risk being seriously overshadowed by the allegations, which are having a significant and worrying impact on investor confidence" and that one investor had been deterred from proceeding. "We are responsible for driving economic growth in our area and therefore it is essential we protect the reputation of major projects — and those leading them — from unfounded allegations."

Carter Ruck declined to comment, citing client privilege.



IN THE TIMES TOMORROW



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CONSTANTIN ECKNER
Germany sack manager Hansi Flick. What now for footballing giant?
MAIN PAPER

DEVON SEA SAFARI/BNPS



Now you sea us A pod of white-beaked dolphins — which are larger than the more common breed — was spotted breaching off the coast of Torquay, Devon

Fathers with strong necks seen as better protectors

Sophie Freeman

The perception of a man's fathering skills is affected by the muscularity of his neck — but the impression is not necessarily positive, a study showed.

Researchers found that the size of the trapezius muscle influenced how protective or nurturing the man was perceived to be. The muscle starts at the skull base and goes across the shoulders down to the middle of the back.

Dr Mitch Brown, co-author of the study from the University of Arkansas, said: "We're talking about muscles that are both connected to the neck and visible from face-to-face interaction."

Brown and his team asked 305 people, men and women, to look at four computer-generated images of the same man. The man had different-sized neck muscles in the images but everything else was the same. The men and women were asked to rate the man in the pictures on various attributes, including how effective he would be at protecting and nurturing offspring.

When the man had a larger trapezius he was rated, on average, as being a better protector of his children. However, he was regarded as worse at nurturing his offspring than when less muscular in this area.

Brown said that humans had evolved to use a man's neck as an efficient way of determining his physical prowess. It would have been important to our ancestors to know quickly whether someone was strong so they could decide whether to avoid them — and the neck is "more reliable than the face and more immediate than the body as a cue".

Though viewing a man's whole body would have been more reliable in understanding his physical power, that would take longer than judging from the neck, and while viewing the face would be quicker than the neck, that would be less reliable.

"[Judging the neck] is a nice compromise between the immediacy of face perception and the accuracy of body perception" Brown said. "Body cues are less immediate when milliseconds could count."

Brown, whose research was published in the Scandinavian Journal of Psychology, said that large trapezius muscles were often perceived as connoting aggression, hence the perception that the man would be less nurturing. In Brown's experiments, another of the neck's muscle groups, the sternocleidomastoids, were also manipulated but this had no real effect on perceptions of the men's fathering skills.

Copy Hungary 'to boost UK marriage rates'

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

Politicians should bring in Hungarian-style reforms such as tax breaks to boost British marriage rates, a think tank claimed.

In a report, the Marriage Foundation said that between 2010, when the right-wing Viktor Orban became Hungary's prime minister, and the Covid lockdown, the number of marriages there rose by 84 per cent.

The country has created incentives including tax breaks for newlyweds up to £93,000, in the form of loans that can be written off. Mothers with three children can also access a house payment of £28,000. However, the think tank said that UK policy failed to distinguish between married and cohabiting couples in tax and benefits. It added that the only financial advantage of marriage was a £252 tax allowance for low-income couples.

Harry Benson, the Marriage Foundation's research director, said Britain had "maintained the couple penalty".



Migrants stuck in hotels despite winning asylum

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Migrants are being kept in hotels for up to four months after they have been granted asylum as the Home Office struggles to find homes in overstretched local authorities.

There were 50,546 in hotels at the end of July at a cost of £7 million a day.

Figures show that it is taking officials an average of more than 110 days to move asylum seekers out of hotels even after they have been granted asylum.

A government source said that Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, "lost his rag" when he was told how long it was taking.

In attempt to speed up the process and reduce the use of hotels, Jenrick has cut the eviction notice period for migrants to seven days. It means that refugees could be evicted from hotels seven days after a "notice to quit". They must then find their own housing.

A letter signed by 140 charities says that could leave thousands of refugees homeless. They said it would make it "virtually impossible" to find housing and financial support and would place "unnecessary pressures" on council homelessness services.

The Refugee Council, which signed the letter, said refugees were already told to leave accommodation with seven days' notice and it expects the number of homeless migrants will "grow significantly". Enver Solomon, its chief executive, said: "Being given refugee status should be a moment of huge relief for the men, women and children who have waited anxiously for months and years to hear whether they will be allowed to stay in the UK. Instead, by giving them very limited time to start anew, they are very likely to face destitution, homelessness and fall into crisis.



Channel crossings by illegal migrants have risen during the good weather

"The government should be setting up refugees for success, enabling them to rebuild their lives by giving them far more time to settle with appropriate support and allowing them to work after six months in the asylum system."

Matt Downie, the managing director of Crisis, a charity for the homeless, said: "It's frankly inhumane to expect people who have just been granted refugee status to leave their asylum accommodation within seven days. In the vast majority of cases, it's obvious to all of us that this can only lead to one outcome — homelessness and destitution. This is no way to start a new life in a country with a proud history of supporting people fleeing war and persecution.

"We've seen through our own services the unsustainable pressures this is placing on local authorities, who are already struggling to find affordable homes for the growing numbers of people facing homelessness. We stand alongside refugees and organisations supporting them in calling on the government to abandon these changes and work with people affected to offer the right care and support."

The Home Office said there was a lot of assistance available to migrants once they were handed a "notice to quit" support by the department. The support is offered by the Migrant Help charity and their partner organisations. It includes advice on how to get jobs, how to apply for universal credit and how to find accommodation.

A Home Office spokesman said: "The pressure on the asylum system has continued to grow, with hotel accommodation costing an unacceptable £6 million a day. We encourage individuals to make their onward plans as soon as possible after receiving their decision, whether that is leaving the UK following a refusal, or taking steps to integrate in the UK following a grant."

PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS



Smiles ahead The Knutsford Great Race, a penny-farthing event usually held every ten years in the Cheshire town, gave everyone a laugh, even the struggling riders



Restaurant that sold out in 93 seconds

Patrick Kidd





When the team behind a Danish restaurant voted as the best in the world announced a one-day partnership with this year's top-rated London eating place, foodies had no time to work up an appetite. All 374 covers sold within 93 seconds of going on sale.

Those with a golden ticket, costing £95 for five small plates of food and two drinks, came to Marylebone yesterday to see what Thomas Frebel and his team from Copenhagen's Noma could cook up with Santiago Lastra, whose Mexican-style Kol restaurant was voted as the 23rd best in the world for 2023.

They were also being given a taste of Noma's future. Its founder, René Redzepi, announced in January that his restaurant, famous for its £450 tasting menu of reindeer brain jelly or beach crab with pine cones, will close next year. Its legacy will be taken on by the Noma Projects laboratory, led by Frebel, which develops condiments and pastes so that people can create Noma-inspired dishes at home.

There was no reindeer at Kol but diners enjoyed a delicious ceviche of squid, scallop and lobster dressed with Noma's Forager's Vinaigrette and amplified by succulents foraged at Dover; a corn on the cob laced with wood ants, which give a citrus taste, and an umami-rich syrup called Dashi RDX; and a tostada topped with octopus, hispi cabbage in fermented gooseberry paste and a smoky pumpkin and dried tomato Vegan XO sauce. Lastra had also devised a taco of smoked celeriac and a celeriac skewer steeped in orange wine and camomile vinegar, which was dressed with Noma Projects' latest invention, a hot sauce made from corn, yellow pea miso and yuzu, a tart fruit.

The meal ended with a chocolate sorbet and a refreshing cordial made with a wild rose vinegar, foraged by hand on the Danish coast, and a pumpkin margarita.

Frebel's team spend their days "brainstorming", ways to layer ingredients. Comparing his process to another Danish invention, Lego, he said: "We place together blocks of flavour to build a dish."



Patrick Kidd of The Times was one of the lucky 374 diners at Noma's pop-up at Kol in Marylebone yesterday

Young treat themselves to black gold

Ben Clatworthy

Caviar is making a comeback with Generation Z in cities like London and Paris, where restaurants are catering for the surge in demand with dishes such as croque caviar, dippy egg with artisan bread soldiers covered in caviar and caviar-topped rosti.

"We're seeing a lot of interest from younger people," said Leonid Shutov, the founder of Bob Bob Ricard, famed for the "press for champagne" buttons at its two London venues. "They're driven, I think, by two factors: they like things that are a little bit retro … and it's one of the few luxuries that is actually good for you."

London welcomed its first dedicated caviar café and deli in December last year when Petrossian, one of the most famous names in caviar, opened in South Kensington.

"The trend started with truffles but has moved to caviar," said Chloé Chataignon, head of UK sales at Petrossian. "Yes, it is expensive, but it is something you can treat yourself with."

Demand has been spurred on by influencers such as Danielle Zaslavskaya, who has been branded the "Queen of Caviar TikTok" after posting a video showing her favourite snack — scoops of Siberian sturgeon caviar atop rye bread with a little butter.

Foody treat has drawn out Gen Z's decadent side, leading article, page 27

Afghanistan Emergency Appeal

£82 could help provide a lifesaving Emergency Payment for a parent to feed their child.

Afghanistan remains the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Unemployment and food prices have skyrocketed. **Hunger is widespread and many areas are on the verge of famine.**

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A gift of £82 could help provide a family with an Emergency Payment to buy food and other lifesaving essentials.

Emergency Payments are one of the most effective ways to help. The payments support the local economy, are relatively quick and inexpensive to administer and, crucially, allow families like Noor's to prioritise the needs most important to them, whether for food, medicine or fuel.

Noor lives with her four children, including 8-year-old Behtar who is pictured above, in an isolated mountain-top cabin, with pieces of threadbare fabric covering where the doors and windows should be.

Noor used to earn a little money washing clothes, but work has dried up. Like millions of her fellow Afghans, she has run out of options.



*Behtar's name, and the names of all individuals, have been changed to help protect their identities.

"With our income, what can I buy? Sometimes my children do not eat for three days because I cannot buy food to cook for them. If we die here on this mountain, no-one will pay attention."

During 2022, thanks to the help of supporters, UNHCR provided humanitarian assistance to around 5.9 million people in Afghanistan, including 1.2 million supported with Emergency Payments. This year, factors like the conflict in Ukraine have left UNHCR resources desperately stretched, and we urgently need your support.

Despite challenges, more than half a million Afghans have received UNHCR assistance throughout Afghanistan so far in 2023. Eighty per cent of those receiving direct assistance are women and children. A gift from you today could mean children have hot food to eat, medicine if they are sick, and a safe place to sleep.

Please stand with displaced people in Afghanistan and give what you can.

£82 could help a family buy essentials like food, medicine and fuel.



An example of what families might buy.

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Gentle gamers swap weapons for a jetwash in video revolution

Joshua Lamb

A new generation of gamers are laying down their blasters and swords in favour of a gentler experience.

Millions have decided that building a desert island with endearing animals or cleaning cars with a power wash simulator is preferable to slaughtering enemies in *Fortnite* and *Call of Duty*.

Animal Crossing: New Horizons is a Nintendo simulation game in which players recreate paradise with cute companions. It became a hit during the pandemic and sold nearly 12 million copies in the first two weeks of its release in spring 2020.



The new generation prefers cleaning a van to slaughtering its enemies

"Games like *Animal Crossing* [were released] just as lockdown started and more people discovered how relaxing some games are," James Batchelor, the author of a new book called *The Best Non-Violent Video Games*, said.

Other developers followed. *PowerWash Simulator*, where players clean houses, has reached seven million players. It became the fourth most popular game on Xbox Game Pass, Microsoft's subscription service, and it outperformed the shooter *Halo Infinite* when it came out in mid 2022.

Andrew Przybylski, professor of human behaviour and technology at the Oxford Internet Institute, said many parents had grown up with gaming and sought non-violent games to play with their children. "It's an empowering thing that the games industry has gotten as diverse and prominent as it has because it makes it easier for an engaged parent to have positive experiences with their kids," he said.

Jenny Windom is an independent games producer from Portland, Oregon, and a member of Wholesome Games, a community that showcases titles that are "thoughtful, kind and compassionate". She said that publishing platforms such as itch.io and subscription services on consoles such as PlayStation and Xbox had helped to bring forward more non-violent and alternative games. "Social media has primed the visibility of these types of games in ways that have never been possible before," she said, adding that many developers had reframed traditional gameplay mechanics, such as the first-person perspective, into "wholesome games".

"What's been really exciting is a lot of wholesome games strive to take those mechanics we're familiar with and reframe them in ways that we haven't conceptualised before."

She gave as an example a game called *Slime Rancher*, in which players use a vacuum to suck up slime and then farm and cultivate it.

Another reason for unusual games gaining more visibility is the way in which people can buy them now on digital platforms such as Steam. Charles Cecil, founder of Revolution Software, which makes the Broken Sword franchise, said: "With an infinite storefront, the curation happens from the audience. What you have is very interesting games bubbling up … It's great for gamers as they now have a much wider choice."


Feminine ruffles and ruches were the order of the day at Ulla Johnson, far left and below. Khaite presented sharp tailoring, centre

Tailoring and tassels offer taste of ultra-luxe

Anna Murphy
FASHION DIRECTOR

It would be difficult to find two more contrasting aesthetics than those offered by the American brands Khaite and Ulla Johnson, as evidenced by their New York Fashion Week shows over the weekend. Yet both labels are among the most successful produced by the city in recent years, with considerable celebrity followings and large numbers of devotees among a new generation of luxury customers.

Khaite, which was launched by Catherine Holstein in 2016, delivers a melange of body-con slink and mannish tailoring in neutral hues and ultra-luxe fabrics.

Ever since 2019 — when an image went viral of the actress Katie Holmes wearing Khaite's matching cashmere bra and cardigan, a combination that became known as the bradigan — the brand's challenge has been to keep up with demand, not to stimulate it. Last year it grew by 45 per cent, and Holstein was named womenswear designer of the year by the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

Its most recent showing was a strong suit, in every sense, courtesy of the broad-shouldered blazers and coats. But also present and correct was that signature glamour in the form of clingy ruched numbers that left little to the imagination, and lingerie-like slip dresses slashed to the thigh.

Holstein plays a game of two halves, splicing the masculine and the feminine, and the end result is quintessentially — and profitably — now.

Ulla Johnson, on the other hand, is entirely about the feminine. Frocks and florals lie at the heart of her brand. Indeed, Johnson was one of the designers who was key in the reinvention of the now-ubiquitous floral midi-dress.

Her genius is to take elements that might once have been seen as frumpy, be that ruffles or rosettes, and make them look fresh by sculpting her lines just so. This time round there were painterly prints, lace inserts and trailing frills. In less talented hands this might end up being cloying. As it was, it looked cool girl, not little girl.

In truth there's a commonality between Khaite and Ulla Johnson. Both designers know their customer, not least because they are their customer.

Both designers produce clothes that make an impact while at the same time appearing effortless. It's the modern way.

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Comment

Starmer pins his hopes on a Labour veteran

Pat McFadden delivered results for Blair and Brown — his rise to campaign leader shows the party is serious about power

Trevor Phillips



@TREVORPTWEETS

The red mist is clearing. The fog that surrounds Labour's plans for power hasn't completely dissipated but last week's shadow cabinet reshuffle cast a shaft of light into the murk that has until now masked the Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer's true intentions. About one thing we need not speculate. He is ruthlessly focused on winning power, whatever the price.

What is less certain is whether a combination of effective party management and Tory exhaustion will be enough to hand him a majority. It's a good bet, but not yet a cert. He needs to tell us what he will do — but if he is honest he risks igniting the kind of civil war that has often enabled Labour to pluck defeat from the jaws of victory.

That risk was made plain yesterday by an angry counterblast from Labour's left. Sharon Graham, the leader of Britain's biggest union, Unite, gave Starmer both barrels: warning against the adoption of policies found "down the back of a 1990s sofa", likening the refreshed front bench to a Blairite tribute band, and demanding that Rachel Reeves should back a wealth tax.

Many in the People's Party love the masses but still find it hard to trust the actual people. Peter Mandelson recounts canvassing a south London estate back in 1981, trying to sell the council's leftist policies. In spite of being confronted on every doorstep by working-class voters' preference for moderate policies, fellow activists declared that there should be "no compromise with the electorate". The story became part of Labour's folklore. To many activists, a proletariat that tolerates the monarchy and likes the US better than it likes Russia simply cannot be trusted.

For such people it follows that a Labour leader likely to win an election must have sold his soul to the devil, and the reshuffle has given purists a ready-made Mephistopheles. The most significant move was to hand the conduct of Labour's election campaign to the veteran operative Pat McFadden, MP for Wolverhampton South East. He is not well known outside political circles, but much admired and not a little feared within them. His ascendancy signals the transfer of power within the Labour hierarchy from the front bench to the back rooms, from the TV cameras to the party machine. He will call the shots from now until election day.

> Most powerful object in the room is said to be McFadden's eyebrow

McFadden started his political life as an aide to John Smith, helping to break the trade union stranglehold on Labour. Later, Tony Blair brought him into No 10, and when he became an MP Gordon Brown placed him at Mandelson's right hand. In recent times he has served as enforcer for the shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves's determination to stick to Tory spending plans.

One account of recent shadow cabinet meetings jokes that the most powerful object in the room is McFadden's eyebrow: if it is raised at any proposal that involves spending, the idea is instantly incinerated. "If you say spending three times, he apparates with a scythe," deadpans Wes Streeting, the shadow health secretary.

But McFadden is not just a backroom fixer. Friends credit him with a deep commitment to principle, even where it may damage his own career. He agreed to serve in Jeremy Corbyn's team as shadow minister for Europe, saying he wanted to make the case for continued membership even though he knew the leader to be, at best, lukewarm.

He didn't last long. In 2016, Corbyn issued a disgracefully ambivalent response to the terrorist murders of journalists at the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris. Others swallowed their principles and remained silent. McFadden called on MPs to "reject the view that sees terrorist acts as always being a response or a reaction to what we in the West do". He was almost instantly sacked.

That said, he is by nature a team player. Those who know him well say that if he has a politician's ego, it appears to have been surgically removed and locked in a safe to which only he knows the combination. He has a reputation as a hard man; his home town of Paisley boasts a history of showy tough guys, from the Hollywood action man Gerard Butler to the fearsome TV interrogator Andrew Neil. By contrast, McFadden is said to be at his most dangerous when he speaks most quietly. Which, actually, is most of the time.

If Labour wins, McFadden won't just have had a role in gaining power; he'll have a major part in exercising it. Here, things remain murkier. We know Starmer wants power but we still have little idea what he wants to do with it. One clue may be provided by the fate of the putative deputy prime minister Angela Rayner, who has been handed the levelling-up brief. Some clever minds see the Rayner shift as a purely cosmetic sideways move, designed to keep Labour's La Pasionaria busy tormenting one of the Tories' few reliable public performers, Michael Gove. They say the role carries little real influence; spending by the sprawling department, which covers housing, local government, planning and public infrastructure, would be in the iron grip of Reeves. Rayner would never be allowed to utter a single word or make a single decision without Reeves's say-so.

TAYFUN SALCI/ZUMA /ALAMY



McFadden is a fixer but friends say he has a deep commitment to principle

That may be, but I think Starmer has bigger plans for his deputy. Labour spokespeople have lately taken to praising the Inflation Reduction Act, Joe Biden's gigantic spending programme. It will have little impact on inflation but will direct the thick end of a trillion dollars to clean energy schemes, manufacturing and health care.

It is the purest expression of what leftish American intellectuals are calling "supply-side progressivism". Instead of doling out more welfare benefits, they say the state should spend tax money on creating jobs and training people to fill them. Rather than subsidising the purchase of expensive drugs, government should invest in innovation so there are more competing — and cheaper — solutions on the market.

The British version of supply-side progressivism has yet to take shape but we can imagine some of it. The biggest signal is that Labour's traditional hostility to the expansion of home ownership is being dumped. The aim of increasing the proportion of adults who own their homes from just over 62 per cent to over 70 per cent is already in the open. There are whispers that Labour plans to give first refusal on new-build homes to first-time buyers. Starmer has hinted he would expand housing supply by breaking the middle-class lock on development in the green belt.

All this will be in Rayner's territory. In the end it may be she, not Starmer, who provides the answer to the question everyone is starting to ask: "We get that you aren't evil Tories, but if you can't tell us what you'd do differently, what exactly is the point of you?"

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West must prepare for a splintering Russia

Exiles from myriad nationalities and regions are making plans for an alarming post-Putin future

Edward Lucas



Buryatia. Idel-Ural. Komi. Sakha. Tyva. The names sound exotic to western ears. But these are not fictional Ruritanias. They are real places which may yet, their champions say, become real countries. Next month supporters of around 41 bits of what is currently the Russian Federation will meet in London. Their organisation, the Free Nations of Post-Russia Forum, was founded in response to the war in Ukraine. Some of their ranks are fighting there as foreign volunteers against Putin's forces. Defeat for the Kremlin is inevitable, they believe, followed by Russia's disintegration. That spells freedom for their long-forgotten homelands. They want outside help in economic stabilisation, safeguarding Russia's vast nuclear arsenal, and building democratic institutions.

The rhetoric is anti-imperialist. The Russian authorities for centuries treated their peoples the way other countries treat their overseas colonies: looting natural resources, crushing dissent and imposing ruthless Russification. In the kaleidoscope of survivors, some have Turkic roots, such as the Tatars, Bashkirs and Chuvash. Others — Mari, Komi and Karelians — are ethnic cousins of the Finns and Estonians. There are the Buddhist Kalmyks and Buryats, plus Cossacks (descended from Russian warrior tribes), the Circassians of the Caucasus, Siberians and dozens of others.

The faultlines are not only ethnic and linguistic. Paul Goble, who as a US government official in the 1980s was a lone voice predicting the Soviet collapse of 1991, now thinks that a far messier, 1918-style disintegration is more likely. "Regionalism is going to be the nationalism of the next Russian revolution," he told a post-Russia meeting in Washington DC, earlier this year. Other Russia-watchers think economic interests and territorial divisions could be a potent combination in some far-flung regions, as central power wanes.

The failed mutiny by Wagner mercenaries in June has highlighted the fragility of Putin's grip on power. But the vaulting ambition of the "free nations" is not yet matched by reality. I spoke at a meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels. Official western support, or indeed serious interest from almost any quarter, was conspicuously absent. I could see why. Flags, maps, faded photographs and long speeches were in plentiful supply. Money, strategy, leadership and clout were not.

> 'There is nothing good in getting 20 smaller dictatorships fighting'

I was reminded of Cold War exiles, squabbling and seemingly pointless, in the 1980s. Yet these governments-in-exile and diplomats without countries had the last laugh as communism collapsed. Their western connections and historical legitimacy became prized.

Inside Russia, the forum is officially proscribed as an "undesirable organisation". Its members operate underground or not at all. Yet the spectre of separatism haunts the Kremlin. Propagandists lambast the exiles. Putin's security chief, Nikolai Patrushev, claims (without evidence) to have uncovered ten western-backed plots in Karelia, a region neighbouring Finland. The allergic reaction has deep roots. Russian nationalists believe western plots destroyed the Soviet Union and that our mischief is continuing.

Outside countries, notably Poland, did back such interwar efforts. But these days western governments steer clear. One reason is ignorance. We have pitifully few diplomats or experts who know the languages, cultures and history of Russia's regions. Even countries with deep knowledge, such as Estonia, worry about giving the kiss of death to those they help. Quite innocuous efforts prompt repression (a small-circulation book of fairytales for the tiny Pomor minority, paid for by the Norwegian government, was treated as high treason).

Determined outsiders would have little to work with. The leaders of the old Soviet republics were political heavyweights, buoyed by five years of liberalisation under Mikhail Gorbachev. Regional elites in Russia now are stuffed with nonentities. Ethnic Russians are a majority almost everywhere, non-Russian languages marginalised. Although the war has largely spared Moscow and St Petersburg, casualties and economic woes have hit the provinces disproportionately hard. Yet so far that has stoked, not corroded, patriotic sentiment. The most cohesive non-Russian entity is Chechnya, which fought two wars for independence. But it is now in fervent alliance with the Kremlin and run, under strict Sharia law, by a particularly nasty warlord, Ramzan Kadyrov.

But the biggest reason for hesitation is that, to many outside eyes, a collapse is neither likely nor desirable. Some bits of the evil empire leapt to freedom in 1991 but others became dictatorships. Inside Russia it heralded a decade remembered for chaos and misery. Few want to risk a repeat. A leading expert in regional politics, Alexander Kynev, says the post-Russia movement is a counterproductive distraction. "The collapse of large countries almost inevitably gives rise to wars, territorial disputes and ethnic cleansing. Internal borders are usually as controversial as external ones. There is nothing good in getting 20 smaller dictatorships fighting each other," he wrote recently. The priority, he argues, is not to "destroy the state and create chaos" but to rebuild institutions hollowed out by Putin.

For those under Moscow's yoke, along with Ukrainians, Georgians and others, only disintegration can exorcise the demon of Russian imperialism. They would rather take their chances with a fragmented, disorderly Russia than face some future Putin. Western governments shudder at the prospect of that: a "time of troubles", or *smuta* in Russian. They prefer stability to a smorgasbord of new countries. But that may not be on the menu.

Juliet Samuel Notebook

I saw how rubbish this concrete was in art class

When I was about 14, I entered art class one day to find a large array of concrete blocks in the studio. We were assigned one each, given some chisels and told to make a sculpture. I decided to carve the lower leg and hoof of a horse. In my mind, I was going to capture the intricate interplay of grace, strength and vulnerability in the joint, the veins just under the silken surface, the awkward, jutting fetlock, the neatness of the hoof.

What came out looked rather more like something from a Nineties computer game, when figures were made of pixelated tubes stuck together. The main problem was my impatience and palpable lack of skill, but a secondary difficulty arose from the material. It was brittle and crumbling, falling off in large, unpredictable chips and carrying the constant risk that it would break in half if the chisel angle was slightly wrong. It also produced an inordinate amount of toxic dust, such that we all had to wear masks for the duration of the project.

The material in question was breeze block, or autoclaved aerated concrete of a similar type to the stuff that's now crumbling to pieces in schools and hospitals across the country. I hope (against expectation) it is not also commonly used in prisons, or it is a wonder we have not had more prison breaks, since any sufficiently dedicated person armed with a spoon and some water would be able to get through it.

On the other hand, I'm pleased to say my crude sculpture has lasted rather well for more than 20 years, sitting on a wooden peg in my parents' house. Now that I know we probably have only another decade to contemplate it before it falls apart, I'll be sure to appreciate it. Most people who look at it can at least tell what it's meant to be.



Soaking man

In another poor combination of dust and water, tens of thousands of people were stranded at the Burning Man festival after torrential rain turned the desert where it's held into a swamp. "I'm glad it's not me!" was my main thought, looking at the pictures. I went to the festival a few times when I lived in America years ago. The discomfort and impracticality of the environment is all part of the shtick.

I have a fond memory of wearing goggles while mixing up a meat stew for my friends on a tiny camping stove in the lea of a tent while a dust storm raged around us. As it waned, we followed a hazy trail of people dressed in pink bunny costumes and a huge Cheshire Cat playing death metal through the white clouds and arrived at a "thunder dome" — a geodesic dome where two snarling men were having a full-on cage fight using foam hammers.

Naturally, the commentary on the event is full of schadenfreude. I understand why people hate "burners", as they style themselves, since they're usually rich, libertarian and dedicated to partying, making them objects of jealousy and derision. And the festival operates on the basis of principles that obviously fall apart as soon as they're examined too closely: it's meant to "leave no trace" on the habitat; money and commercial activity are prohibited, the whole thing operating by gifting; and burners are meant to be "radically self-reliant" (maybe, if nothing goes wrong).

But for all its stupidities, it's a more original, interesting and spontaneous experience than the typical pre-booked festival line-up in a muddy field. Dust swamp or not, the burner legions will return.

Broken China

There's a terrible irony to Beijing's demand that the British Museum return various historic Chinese objects. It was dramatised in a viral video depicting a jade teapot that is stolen from the museum and morphs into a young woman asking a Chinese journalist to help return her "to her family". Under Mao, revolutionaries set about destroying every fragment of historic "bourgeois" culture they could lay their hands on, from Ming vases to family tombs. In Xinjiang, Tibet and Inner Mongolia they're still at it, eradicating distinct culture to make room for Han supremacy. Forgive me if I'm not rushing to consider Beijing's claims on our museums.

THUNDERER

Netanyahu's judicial reform is alienating most British Jews

Colin Shindler

This Friday marks the start of the Jewish new year, a time to reflect on the passing year and voice aspirations for the one coming. The central concern for many British Jews this year will be the deep division in Israel over the government's "judicial reform" which removes the checks and balances that preserve an independent judiciary.

A recent survey by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) asked: "What do Jews in the UK think about Israel's leaders and its future?" From those who gave an opinion, 79 per cent disapproved of Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister. This was not a survey of a few hundred but one answered by almost 4,000 people.

The two-day visit of Israel's minister for the diaspora, Amichai Chikli, last week became the occasion for unprecedented protests and demonstrations, the cancellation of a meeting by a major Jewish cultural centre in London and closed meetings at which community leaders berated him. The president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews asked Chikli to relay the profound concern of the Jewish community to Netanyahu's government. All this shows a widening chasm between an illiberal Israeli government and an increasingly irritated Jewish community here. Most British Jews, it appears, want a separation of powers between government, parliament and the judges in Israel on the British model, as laid down in the Act of Settlement of 1701.

There are three strands of opinion among British Jews: a rapidly shrinking band of hardliners, a growing collective of critics from across the political spectrum and a group emanating mainly from central orthodoxy and its rabbinical leadership that refuses to take a stand. This last group calls for unity and compromise in the name of consensus. While this may be a worthy goal, as the former Israeli president Ruvi Rivlin commented: "You can't have half a democracy!"

Past surveys have found that post-Holocaust generations distinguish between support for an Israeli government and support for the state — and that an overwhelming majority of British Jews do not disparage the label of Zionist.

The JPR survey showed that a mere 13 per cent of British Jews approved of Netanyahu. Jewish groups have previously preferred not to recognise how few these supporters are, according them equal status with his critics in the spirit of communal harmony. Clearly all this is changing.

The JPR survey also found that 72 per cent of British Jews are pessimistic about the future of democratic government in Israel. A heavy thought to carry into the new year.

Colin Shindler is an emeritus professor at SOAS, University of London



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Freshers need help in learning to rub along

New cohort of students lost real-life experience in the pandemic and missed out on vital opportunities and encounters

Libby Purves

@LIB_THINKS

Universities have not seemed to care much about Covid's impact on students. There were accommodation bills not reduced in lockdown absences; an overlong dependence on remote teaching; marking strikes preventing graduation; and some painful, humiliating dropping out by students who got admitted to tough courses without exam or interview, but with only their A-level grades inflated by optimistic teachers. It has not been a glorious period for universities or for the nation's general attitude to the young. But it is refreshing to hear one vice-chancellor acknowledging some of the damage.

Professor Katie Normington of De Montfort University, Leicester (itself still heavily strike-hit), says the new intake may need icebreakers in tutorials and support in socialising to fight loneliness and form group and friendship bonds. When Covid-19 struck, this cohort would have been about 15: keenly anticipating sixth-form freedoms and chosen subjects, but suddenly barred from getting about independently of their families. They had less chance to encounter new and unexpected people and situations, at parties or Saturday jobs, or to walk into rooms full of strangers without feeling awkward or judged. They were also — for conscience is often tender at that age — cumbered with the duty of preserving the very old and protecting an under-resourced NHS. News bulletins stressed the perils of mingling and the toxic message that others are either dangerous or vulnerable: so the slightest breach of the rules, like sitting on a bench, meant killing a granny or making a tired nurse cry. Do not underestimate the effect — those few years are formative.

Many freshers, of course, will be no more fragile than any 18-year-old suddenly far from home with their first kettle. Those with money and parental support will do fine (enough to eat, train fare home paid on demand when things get too much). But authorities should certainly be alert to enhanced mental difficulties, or, as another speaker said, to anxious self-medication with the drugs that flood every campus.

Professor Normington's warning provokes thoughts about all youthful socialising, but add another factor: social media. For this generation, screens represented for too long the sole communication outside home. Even a text or a meme is something "curated" and adjusted in the solitude of your bedroom; you can argue or play screen games with comrades across the world and never be confused or irritated by their mannerisms, or worry whether your accent or outfit puts you in contempt.

For a few, living with an elderly relative in a household still ultra wary of the virus, it may be particularly alarming to enter rooms full of strangers "IRL" — in real life. Perhaps a festival or gig or two has broken the ice and forged unlikely bonds in the struggle to get a tent up: let us hope so. Perhaps a spell in a burger bar knocked off some corners, and taught the lesson that bantering black humour with an unlikely workmate can, oddly, dispel both anxiety and depression. But some may arrive at the new seriousness of university feeling vulnerable, self-conscious and unpractised in real life.

> Screens were for too long the sole form of communication

Think how much they mattered, those early encounters after school and home, the decisions and adaptations. At my first university interview the waiting area held one very shouty and opinionated posh girl, whose voice grated my nerves. I remember thinking, "It's either go and chat to her or go mad." She was, of course, deep down as nervous as me, so we became good if not intimate friends over the next years.

Gap year work at a Hamburg bank, an Irish bar and a series of temp typing pools saw me both befriended and cruelly rebuked by an assortment of bosses, comrades and customers. You learn to adjust your sails, as it were, whether facing a truculently drunk farmer, a Cockney telex-room supervisor determined to make you eat a jellied eel, or a primly polite German middle-manager deploying surnames and deathly formal courtesy while pointing out that the German keyboard has made you end all his letters "Zours faithfully".

University required a whole new set of responses, but at least we were not yet hamstrung by the social media habit. Online communication and limited IRL encounters can trap a person mentally in an echo chamber of censorious certainties, social or political. We see one effect already: the deplatforming of contentious speakers in the utterly hopeless cause of keeping everyone forever "comfortable" and "safe" mentally. This anxious, unconfident narrowing afflicts older generations too: a shivering partisanship that impoverishes humanity. The ancient skill of learning to "rub along" with almost anyone is undervalued, as is the ability both to debate with goodwill or, if arguing is inappropriate, to roll your eyes and button your lip when someone is wrong but probably harmless. I cherish the supposed Arab proverb quoted by HW Tilman: "The camel driver has his thoughts, and the camel — he has his!" It has got me through many a professional and private conversation. As the camel.

A wincing culture, amplified online, militates against amused or interested tolerance. The stress on idiosyncratic identity also creates a fear of anyone thinking wrong things or using wrong pronouns about you. Easier to retreat into a groupthink burrow, which for many means online. Previous generations had to learn very early how to live, work and study alongside awkward people of every political view, social hinterland, artistic taste, personal style, religion and nuance of the LGBTQ+ spectrum. As in journalism, the pleasure lay in discovering that while not everyone is likely to be your best friend, everyone does offer two things: something worth hearing and something best left overlooked.

Happy new term, kids: plunge bravely into the crazy human soup!

Letters to the Editor

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Prison reform vital

Sir, The escape and re-arrest of Daniel Khalife (news, Sep 9) has been more effective highlighting the dire state of the majority of the prisons in England and Wales than the unstinting work of the chief inspector of prisons and the efforts to bring about change by those of us who work within the system.

Public opinion appears to be shifting. There is an awareness that increasing the number prison places is not a long-term solution but a costly short-term fix. At present prison does not work. Ministry of Justice figures published last October reveal the average prisoner in England and Wales has more than 19 prior convictions.

The government has a golden opportunity to initiate change. I hope it will follow the advice of your leading article (Sep 8) that "an effective penal system maintains public safety not only by incarcerating criminals but also by rehabilitating them in humane conditions". At present, we are not fulfilling any of these imperatives.
Fiona Sample
CEO, the Oswin Project; EAB chair

Sir, I have long held the opinion that all prisoners should have the right to vote. If they were able to, candidates would have to have access to canvass them so a wider selection of the public would see the awfulness and inadequacies of these places (letter, Sep 9). Candidates would begin to take a real interest in those conditions, and begin to do something about prisons.
Jo Jacques
Guildford, Surrey

Nurturing nature

Sir, You recently highlighted that "progress on protecting nature is disgraceful" (news, Sep 5). Yet the solution in very much within the government's grasp. National parks and areas of outstanding natual beauty are already designated for conserving and enhancing wildlife. The problem is that their lack of powers to make this happen. A change in the law proposed by Lord Randall of Uxbridge, to be debated in the Lords on Wednesday, would, crucially, require public bodies and water companies to further the purposes of protected landscapes rather than overlook them. This is the simplest thing the government could do right now to safeguard these beautiful landscapes.
Neil Hesletine, chairman, National Parks England; **Janette Ward**, chairwoman, Campaign for National Parks; **Andrea Davis**, chairwoman, Exmoor National Park Authority

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Making a pay-as-you-drive system fair for all

Sir, Matthew Parris (comment, Sep 9) makes a compelling case for electronic road pricing (ERP) but only at an intellectual level. The public resistance he acknowledges arises because most of us suspect that the financial advantages he mentions, such as reductions in fuel duty, would never materialise. In addition the technology involved would enable the identification of road traffic offences with the resulting imposition of fines and even driving bans based on the information gathered.
Anthony Browne
Datchet, Berks

Sir, Matthew Parris skips a few key issues. Fuel duty isn't ring-fenced for transport infrastructure building, and you can be sure future road tolls won't be, either. Lower pricing for less congested routes will simply cause those routes to become congested as drivers switch to them over more expensive routes. There is the question of data protection: who will have access to the vehicle tracking data? The temptation to make it easily available to the authorities will be overwhelming without the right legislation. Finally, there are questions about how much the tracking infrastructure installation and maintenance will cost and who will pay for it.
Tim Banks
Knutsford, Cheshire

Sir, We already have a system that charges motorists for their road use without the need for state-sponsored surveillance of journeys with all the associated costs. It's called fuel duty and it's applied to petrol and diesel at the pumps. What's even better is that it rewards drivers of economical vehicles by charging per unit of fuel as opposed to penalising drivers of economic vehicles by charging per mile. The only winners of a pay-per-mile system will be the rich who will pay the same to travel in luxury as the poor who will have to pay to travel for necessity.
Alan Surry
Grays, Essex

Sir, There is one variable missing from Matthew Parris's list of criteria for setting pay-as-you-drive charging. He mentions road mileage, pollution status of vehicles, time of day, speed of travel, and degree of congestion. He overlooks ability to pay, the information for which could be provided by HM Revenue & Customs. Without this in the mix, road pricing would have the same problem as parking charges. The very rich can so easily afford to pay them; they regard charges as a means of providing more available parking space for themselves.
Alan Fairs
Bewdley, Worcs

Sir, Matthew Parris is right that switching to ERP would be politically "very tricky". I suggest that many voters would welcome a commitment by the main political parties in their manifestos to get an independent or all-party review on ERP up and running within six months of the next election with its report to be issued within, say, 12 months. Ideally the parties would work together before the election to reach agreement on terms of reference. Of course there will be many difficult issues, but inclusion of a commitment with deadlines could compel action on a subject politicians would much prefer to leave safely in the long grass.

People should ask their MPs if they support this modest proposal. I shall be writing to mine, Sir Keir Starmer.
Roger Myddelton
London WC1

Climate research

Sir, Saturday, September 9, was the hottest day of an unprecedented autumn heatwave that would have been highly unlikely without climate change. Based on previous experience, hundreds of our fellow citizens across the country will have died because of the heat. So it was deeply ironic you chose that day to publish a leading article alleging that scientific journals were "unwilling to consider research which downplays the scale of climate change", citing an article by Dr Patrick Brown in which he made several inaccurate claims about current publication practices.

Most notable was his allegation that he had to ignore factors other than climate change to persuade the journal Nature to publish a paper on the causes of increased wildfire activity. The reports of referees that were released alongside his paper showed that he and his co-authors strongly argued against the inclusion of other factors. It was their decision, not the journal's, to focus on climate change.

Dr Brown also claimed that heat-related deaths had been declining, based on a study of data between 1985 and 2009 that showed no statistically significant change for the UK. However, half of the UK's ten warmest days have occurred since 2009 and heat-related mortality last summer was the highest on record.
Bob Ward
Policy director, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

NHS deference

Sir, Janice Turner is absolutely correct (comment, Sep 9) to support "Martha's rule". The level of confidence that patients have in their clinician is critical. Any diminution can be restored by offering a second opinion. Should the patient obtain an opinion that better accords with their wishes, then their level of satisfaction is raised. If the second opinion is the same as I offered, then the patient's confidence in me is restored. A classic win-win for all concerned.
Bill Cunliffe, consultant surgeon (ret'd)
Bedlington, Northumberland

Sir, I also experienced a lack of interest and unkindness from a few medical staff when I sat beside my elderly father as he died in hospital. However, I must disagree with Janice Turner's observation that "these were low-paid workers" as if that has any bearing on one's capacity for kindness. Being on a low income does not excuse anyone treating their customers or service users any differently.
Kay Dungworth
Harrogate, N Yorks

Rail crash fine

Sir, I am rather bemused by the news that Network Rail is to be fined £6.7 million because of the Stonehaven railway accident (news, Sep 9). I do not see the point of fining a taxpayer-owned company. There are no dividends to be affected, it is effectively our money and if Network Rail runs out of money then we will be expected to give them further subsidy. Obviously an inquiry was necessary to establish what went wrong so that it does not happen again. Anything else is a complete waste of time and (our) money.
Francis Norton
London NW3

ANNA PAVLOVA AT COVENT GARDEN

FROM THE TIMES SEPTEMBER 11, 1923

Mme Pavlova began her short season at Covent Garden last night before a large audience, who had come to be charmed and got all they came for. The Fairy Doll, one of the toyshop ballets with dolls who come to life and dance each after his or her kind, with a fairy doll more beautiful than all others as the central figure, gave all the colour and variety, the alternations of grace and humour with a touch of the grotesque, which make a thoroughly effective stage piece. Its only fault is that it reminds us too much of La Boutique Fantasque, without the originality in grouping and movement which made the peculiar brilliance of that production, and without the music. The music of The Fairy Doll is of a thoroughly commonplace order, just something to which the figures can be danced, and which can make a background to the virtuosity of Mme Pavlova and her clever dancing-partner, M Novikoff. The new ballet, Ajanta's Frescoes, is more ambitious. It is actuated by the same idea, that of man's imaginative creations having a life of their own, for the main scene represents the dance of the figures in the frescoes while the worshippers in the temple are asleep.

The idea has been developed here with considerable resource by M Ivan Clustine. The tableaux and the costumes are derived from actual sketches of the frescoes, and the scene culminates in the departure of Guatama from the riot of his court to seek the higher life. Yet it is, naturally enough, the physical life of a multitudinous movement which the arrangers have made the chief motive of the ballet. If there is any criticism to be made it is that in the dances, and more especially in Mme Pavlova's own dancing, too many of the cliches of the conventional ballet make their appearance. The music of Alexander Tcherepnin has plenty of rhythmic character and might perhaps have been more closely studied in devising the steps. Scenically the whole thing is effectively arranged, the principal dancers give their best, and the production was very enthusiastically received. The programme was completed with divertissements, which are among the most popular things in the repertory of Mme Pavlova and her associates. She is supported by a large and well-equipped corps de ballet.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Triumphant Proms

Sir, While Britain's buildings literally crumble and it scarcely rules the waves Britons can still be mightier and mightier proud of creating the best classical music festival in the world (Richard Morrison, Times2, Sep 8). This year's Proms has been, to use the conductor Marin Alsop's word, joyful. So let us come together to prevent some philistine Tories seeking to deprive the BBC of the funds it so well spends on this feast of music.
Fionn Morgan
Forest Row, E Sussex

Crisis out of drama

Sir, Your article "'Cult massacre' was actually a yoga class" (news, Sep 8) reminds me of an incident at a drama centre many years ago. I was the "victim" of a kidnapping at (fake) gunpoint and dragged out of the centre into the playground amid much shouting. Suddenly there were police cars everywhere — a new neighbour, unfamiliar with the centre's purpose, had called the police and reported a crime in progress.
Sharon Cavendish
London N2

Diamond geezer

Sir, UK plc needs a productivity tsar to lead us out of our malaise and the obvious candidate is alive and well: Sir Mick Jagger. There could be no better example than an 80-year-old still in full employment, producing goods and services (news & leading article, Sep 7), while generating foreign earnings to address the balance of payments deficit. He sets a fine example to us workshy baby boomers. Ministers should not overlook such youthful talent.
Stephen Taylor
Winchester

Floating an idea

Sir, Ann Treneman (notebook, Sep 9) invites collective nouns for a flight of hot air balloons: perhaps a "soar", an "inflation" or, for those who remember the Seventies advert for white sliced bread, a "Nimble".
Mike Morrison
London N20

Sir, Ann Treneman asks for a better collective noun than a "congress" for hot air balloons. I suggest a "parliament" would be a sound alternative.
Ian Hone
Dulverton, Somerset

Dodd's taxing times

Sir, I thought that Ken Dodd's best line (news, Sep 8; letter, Sep 9) was: "Self-assessment? I invented that."
Philip Standfast
Hebden Bridge, W Yorks

Sir, My favourite moment in Ken Dodd's tax trial came when Doddy explained that he had had some trouble with his tax because his accountant had died. Asked by the prosecutor, "Did that really mattter?" he replied: "Well it mattered to him." Cue jury laughter. Cue acquittal.
Jonathan Taylor
Fowey, Cornwall

Sir, The comedian thought it hilarious and fitting that the Revenue Office seeking to retrieve vast arrears of tax from him was based in Andover.
Dominic Regan
Bath

Daily Universal Register

UK: NHS autumn vaccinations begin.
Middle East: James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, visits Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Nature notes



This time last year the old horse pond, surrounded by alders and set at the junction of three arable fields, was dry. But now the water was at a good level, still thatched with floating fragments of chaff from the harvest, which took place over a week ago. At the margin, near where a shaft of sun illuminated the peaty water, a large, brown spider floated. It hadn't fallen in; raft spiders are semi-aquatic predators that sense prey via vibrations transmitted through the water's meniscus. They can dive, too, and have been known to eat tadpoles and even small fish. MELISSA HARRISON

Birthdays today



Brian De Palma, *pictured*, film director, *Carrie* (1976), 83; **Mo Abudu**, media entrepreneur, founder of EbonyLife TV, 59; **Philip Ardagh**, children's writer, the Eddie Dickens series, 62; **Richard Ashcroft**, singer-songwriter, the Verve, *The Drugs Don't Work* (1997), 52; **Bashar al-Assad**, president of Syria, 58; **Franz Beckenbauer**, footballer, West Germany (1965-77), and manager (1984-90), 78; **Catherine Bott**, soprano and broadcaster, 71; **Nicolas Brown**, director, Neal Street Productions, 58; **Anthony Browne**, children's laureate (2009-11), 77; **Jonny Buckland**, guitarist, Coldplay, 46; **Paul Cole**, British flat racing champion trainer (1991), 82; **Harry Connick Jr**, singer and actor, 56; **Julie Covington**, singer and actress, *Don't Cry for Me Argentina* (1977), 77; **Timothy Ffytche**, president, Macular Society, surgeon-oculist to Queen Elizabeth II (1999-2001), 87; **Tony Gilroy**, film director and scriptwriter, the Jason Bourne series (2002-12), 67; **Mickey Hart**, drummer, the Grateful Dead, 80; **Judith Howarth**, soprano, 61; **Clive Lewis**, Labour MP for Norwich South, 52; **Lord (Mark) Marlesford**, special adviser to the government (1970-74), The Economist lobby correspondent (1976-91), 92; **Moby**, musician, *Play* (1999), 58; **Jon Moss**, drummer, Culture Club, 66; **Queen Paola of Belgium**, 86; **Arvo Part**, composer, 88; **Lee Rowley**, Conservative MP for North East Derbyshire, local government and building safety minister, 43; **Andy Ruiz Jr**, boxer, former world heavyweight champion (WBA, IBF, WBO and IBO, 2019), 34; **Lord (James) Sassoon**, president, China-Britain Business Council, 68; **Sir Neville Simms**, chairman, Thames Tideway Tunnel, 79; **Sir Jonathan Swift**, High Court judge, in charge of the administrative court, 59; **Roger Uttley**, rugby union player, England (1973-80, five-times captain) and British Lions (1974), 74; **Sir Charles Walker**, Conservative MP for Broxbourne, 56; **Prof Julie Williams**, leading researcher into Alzheimer's disease, chief scientific adviser for Wales (2013-17), 66.

On this day

In **1994** the Danish singer known as Whigfield became the first new artist to enter the official UK singles chart at No 1, with her debut single *Saturday Night*.

The last word

"You can take away a man's gods, but only to give him others in return." Carl Jung, founder of analytical psychology, *The Undiscovered Self* (1958)

Smoke and Mirrors

MPs and the public must be able to establish what impact Chris Cash, arrested on suspicion of spying for China, may have had on the operation of British democracy

All states try to influence world affairs in their interests. That is the bread and butter of diplomacy, and there is nothing wrong with it. China's activities, however, cross the boundary from influence to interference. They are covert and sometimes coercive. Rather than contributing respectfully to other countries' democratic processes, China's work abroad is designed to subvert them. News that police arrested a parliamentary researcher on suspicion of spying for Beijing is, therefore, cause for the greatest concern.

In that context, *The Times* reveals today that the suspect is Chris Cash, a 28-year-old history graduate who grew up in Edinburgh. The public interest in disclosing his identity is overwhelming. He was well-connected in Westminster. He had links to several MPs including Tom Tugendhat, who is now the security minister, albeit before Tugendhat took up that post. He helped Alicia Kearns MP with her campaign to become chairwoman of the foreign affairs select committee, and drafted briefing notes for her. He worked with the influential China Research Group of MPs.

It is essential that the public, and other parliamentarians, are able to scrutinise on an informed basis whether key politicians' positions on security and foreign policy issues may have been affected by espionage. It is essential that MPs are able to establish whether they may have been targeted themselves. It is also fair to put an end to any uninformed speculation that other individuals may be the suspect.

The seriousness is such that Rishi Sunak raised concerns about interference in a meeting with the Chinese premier on the sidelines of the G20 over the weekend. He was right to do so, not least because this is not the first time that the authorities have sounded the alarm about Chinese meddling in British public life. Last year MI5 alleged that Christine Lee, an Anglo-Chinese lawyer, knowingly engaged in political interference on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party. Lee denies wrongdoing and is suing MI5. *The Times* also recently revealed that a Chinese spy had used the networking site LinkedIn to try to lure British officials and those that work with them into handing over state secrets.

Nor is China's focus limited to Westminster. A recent report by the intelligence and security committee (ISC) highlighted that China has used intimidatory tactics to stifle debate in universities and think tanks about the actions of its government, used the front of academic inquiry to steal intellectual property, and poured money into research that promotes Chinese interests. The ISC warns that China is increasingly using a "whole of state" approach, pursuing its agenda not only through officials, but also enterprises and citizens. China deploys these tactics as part of a campaign to erode protection and support for fair competition, national sovereignty and human rights. The ends are as objectionable as the means.

The government has taken welcome steps to manage Chinese influence, setting up a new investment screening regime for security-sensitive business deals and beefing up vetting for academics working in some areas of research. New laws will also soon require the registration of political influencing activities. The challenge is to balance these concerns with the need for engagement. Though China's growth has slowed, it is still the world's second-largest economy and one of the UK's biggest trading partners. There was more than £100 billion of bilateral trade last year.

It is also an enormous emitter of greenhouse gases. There are few countries whose co-operation is more important in dealing with climate change, along with its economic cost. It is obviously necessary, therefore, to continue to talk to China. Yet the government is right to make clear it that it expects that engagement to be overt, not covert — and certainly not criminal.

Post Truth

Royal Mail needs to address declining standards and delivery delays

In a world where citizens' interactions with the state, the economy and each other have increasingly moved online, it is easy to forget that the post still contains serious business. Many rely on mail for time-critical documents like NHS appointment letters, bills, tax notices and fines that spawn court summonses when ignored. If these letters are missed, that is more than a trifling inconvenience. One cancer patient recently told The Times that letters from his doctor had arrived after he was expected to attend appointments.

Such delays are too frequent. Royal Mail is required to deliver 93 per cent of first-class post within one working day of collection and 98.5 per cent of second-class post within three working days. The company failed to hit its delivery targets in every UK postcode this summer. In the worst-performing postcode, a mere 57.5 per cent of first-class mail was delivered on time.

Behind the numbers are countless stories of woe. In recent days several readers have written to this newspaper's letters page in exasperation, citing unreasonably early final collections and interminable delays. One reader observes that a Royal Mail apology was inadvertently insightful: "please be assured that we take letting our customers down seriously".

It is no wonder that Ofcom, Royal Mail's regulator, is investigating whether the company has breached its legal duties, and how much it should be fined if so. The failings are more than a blip, after all. Royal Mail has not hit its targets for first and second-class mail since 2016-17. Ofcom let the operator off without a fine last year because of "exceptional events" that had made its job harder. The hands-on aspects of the operation were difficult while social-distancing rules were in place, and staff absence levels rose as posties caught Covid-19.

However, the regulator has sensibly warned that Royal Mail cannot continue to use the pandemic as an excuse. In any case the surge in online ordering during that period, and a busy trade in distributing test kits, had their advantages for postal services. That boom is unlikely to return any time soon, and Royal Mail reported losses this year, but there will be limits to public sympathy for its financial position, given that Royal Mail's parent company, International Distributions Services, has paid £477 million in dividends to shareholders since March 2021. Nor will the public's affection be boosted by the recent 15p jump in the price of a first-class stamp to £1.10, an increase greater than consumer price inflation.

None of this is to deny the commercial pressure on the business. Servicing postcodes across the country is an expensive exercise, and all the more so with a highly unionised workforce: a long-running battle with the Communications Workers' Union (CWU) ended with a deal in July on a 10 per cent salary increase over three years. It is difficult to keep up revenues as more correspondence moves out of the postbox and into the cloud. Growing competition from couriers has presented challenges too.

The inescapable reality, however, is that Royal Mail has obligations to the public that it is consistently failing to meet. Now that managers do not need to spend all their time squabbling with union bosses, they can focus on putting that right. If they fail, then the viability of a centuries-old national institution could be called into question.

Let Them Eat Caviar

A trend for fishy delicacies has finally drawn out Generation Z's bacchanalian spirit

Generation Z, the cohort born in the late 1990s and early 2000s, are an abstemious bunch. They drink less than their parents: about a quarter refrain from boozing altogether. They do not seem interested in drugs either, all too aware that a brief moment of ill-advised inhalation or ingestion may be captured on someone's phone and immortalised on social media for the benefit of their prospective employers (or, one day, the entertainment of their children). Some studies even suggest a "sex drought" among the young.

Putting to one side the bursts of dopamine they manage to release by scrolling on to another TikTok video, one could be forgiven for thinking that this generation is indifferent altogether to the baser pleasures in life. What will they look back on with a bashful giggle when they are old and grey?

It seems they have, at last, found an answer. Smart restaurants are rewriting their menus to accommodate a surge in demand for caviar among the younger generation. These eateries' new creations have a distinctly modern bent. Zoomers are not eating caviar with a grated hard-boiled egg like James Bond in *Casino Royale*, but are indulging themselves with cheffy concoctions like "croque caviar" and "caviar-topped rosti with bonito cream".

The founder of one restaurant that is cashing in on the trend says that there are two factors in Gen Z's interest. First is their penchant for all things retro. Second is that, unlike the strong booze that yuppies used to quaff in these establishments, caviar will do no harm to the temples that are Gen Z bodies. It is a naughty treat for another, more prosaic reason: the stratospheric price. Like avocado-munching millennials before them, zoomers will no doubt attract criticism for their profligacy, but better to let them eat caviar. They enjoy so little else.

World

Marrakesh in shock but scale of

Concern is mounting for rubble-scarred remote villages, writes **Isambard Wilkinson**



The small pile of rubble in front of number 14b Jnane Road in Marrakesh marks a single tragedy in the greater humanitarian crisis caused by the earthquake.

On Friday night, when the quake's tremors violently shook the city, the family that lives in the house ran into the street but as Touria, 45, did so the parapet above the front door collapsed on top of her, killing her.

Abdelmounaim El-Jerti, a neighbour in the working-class Bab Ahmar quarter, had just left his own house when he came across the family pulling her lifeless body from the rubble. "It was a terrible scene that I cannot erase from my mind. The family is destroyed by their loss," he said.

Now the house was locked up. The family had gone to hold a funeral for their loved one. With the rubble neatly swept aside, the street had returned to a semblance of normality, with the cries of a fishmonger advertising his wares, a man shouldering a basket of dough on the way to the baker and neighbours greeting one another politely.

But Marrakesh, too, marks a smaller tragedy among the quake's more than 2,000 deaths, the majority of which occurred in the impoverished villages in the mountains to the south. The country's most distinctive city is in shock, if determined to dust itself off and defiantly return to normal and provide support for the destroyed isolated hamlets and farms in the hinterland.

The epicentre of the 6.8-magnitude quake was about 45 miles (72km) southwest of Marrakesh in the High Atlas mountains. The remote and mountainous terrain is hampering the rescue operation, with dislodged boulders blocking roads and some villages finding themselves cut off.

In 1960 a 5.9-magnitude quake struck Agadir, causing between 12,000 and 15,000 deaths. It has since been rebuilt as a tourist resort. That quake was weaker than Friday's but it was shallow and hit a heavily populated area.

The strongest earthquake in terms of magnitude to hit Morocco in more than 120 years has left its mark on the city in an insidious way. Aside from its 17 deaths, the most obvious damage is the dozens of buildings that collapsed across the city. The Koutoubia Mosque, built in the 12th century, was shaken but the extent of any damage was not immediately clear. The walls that surround the old city, a Unesco World Heritage site, have collapsed in places and several minarets have toppled.

Many houses in poorer neighbourhoods, although they have not fallen, have suffered significant fissures in their walls, rendering them dangerously weak. In a poor compound on the edge of the wealthy La Palmeraie area on the city's outskirts, where 20 members of the Boujma Chorhoui family live, they pointed to ominous cracks in almost every room. "If there are aftershocks the whole lot may come down," one said. "Tonight we will again all spend the night in the open scrubland."





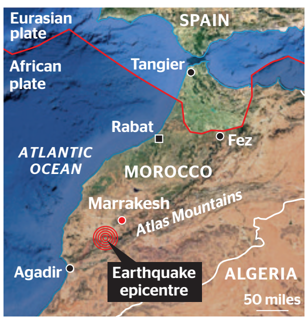


A victim is carried away in Al Haouz province. The quake has reduced areas like Moulay Brahim, top left, to rubble. The village of Tafeghaghte, bottom left and top

In the poorer parts of the Mellah, the old Jewish quarter, the city's worst affected area, several buildings were almost totally destroyed, with rubble strewn in parts of most of its alleys. Fatima Ouaiahou was thankful that she was staying in another family member's house when her rooms in a humble riad, or courtyard building, collapsed. Surveying the ruin, she said: "The government must make a solid plan to survey all the houses and oversee that they are rebuilt or that we are rehoused."

Inside the small compound, which is shared by five families who have one gas hob to cook on, Fatna Amine, a widow who sells clothes for her subsistence, pointed to a wall above her door that looked ready to fall. "I will sleep outside until we can find safer housing," she said.

In the square outside the Mellah a protest of about thirty poor women was confronted by the police after they shouted for food and shelter from the government. "They are in a terrible state," an onlooker said. "The government should help them."



Portraits of King Mohammed, the wealthy monarch who has absolute power and oversees the workings of the elected government, stand in every official building and some cafés and homes. People voiced hope that he would direct sufficient funds to the earthquake-affected area. "He will come and there will be great fanfare and he will leave some money," one woman said. "But then his cronies will pocket most of it when his back is turned. That's how it works."

The monarch has declared three days of mourning. Although a stream of tourists flowed through the city's centre many of the shops, museums and cafés were closed. The Djemaa el-Fnaa square was relatively muted. Television cameras were fixed on the fallen minaret of the square's mosque.

Opposite, in the renowned Café de France, customers sipped coffee on its terrace. "We have cracks in some of the masonry and you can see plaster has fallen in a few places," Badr, manning the till behind its tiled bar, said. Shrugging his shoulders, he added: "I lost an in-law when his house fell on him in the El Kennaria Derb district."

News of the deaths of family members in the countryside arrived throughout the day. Ouaiahou heard of 12 cousins who had died in their village. Said, a young entrepreneur in Marrakesh, said: "I lost two of my uncles in Amizmiz and we do not know the fate of another and his daughter. The house of my grandfathers, which is far from the centre of the town of Amizmiz, has completely collapsed."

He added: "Water and electricity networks are damaged, they have had no electricity or water since the day of the earthquake. People cannot be reached by phone, or they have lost them."

Survivors say there are still victims alive under collapsed houses in the mountain valleys and that the smell of the corpses is pervasive in places because authorisation from the local authorities has not yet been granted to bury the dead.

Said added: "We tried as a family to transport some aid to our uncles by road, but we couldn't. The authorities preferred that it be done by officials. It's a disaster!"

Driving through the streets of Marrakesh, Hassan, a taxi driver, fell silent as the national radio broadcast a keening Arabic lament, a dhikr chant, to commemorate the dead. "The earthquake was shocking," he said when it had ended. "But it's OK. Marrakesh lives on."

Doubt thrown on JFK magic bullet theory Page 30

We must call time on teenage binge drinking Page 31

quake tragedy remains hidden

ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ VELEZ/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES; FADEL SENNA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; ABDELHAK BALHAKI/REUTERS; CARL COURT/GETTY IMAGES







right, have also been devastated. In the village of Tansghart many of the buildings that still stand are at risk of collapse

Don't cancel holidays, urges Branson's sister

Isambard Wilkinson

The sister of the British tycoon Sir Richard Branson issued a plea for tourists to visit Marrakesh and for donations to help victims of the earthquake.

Speaking to The Times in the southern Moroccan city, Vanessa Branson, whose family owns hotels in Marrakesh and in one of the badly affected areas, also called for the annual meeting of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund to go ahead in the city as planned from October 9.

"The summit absolutely needs to go ahead. There is no reason not to visit Marrakesh now," she said. "Although a number of old buildings have been damaged, the fundamental heart of the town, like its people, is robust."

Branson urged tourists to continue with their holidays, saying that money was vital for devastated areas south of the city. She added: "All the international hotels and most riads are strong enough to stay in. My message is: don't cancel your holidays. You will come to a country where the true resilience and beauty of the people is shining through the crisis."

She spoke as rescuers continued to search for survivors and the number of people killed in the earthquake rose past 2,100.

In Marrakesh the British community stepped up its efforts to support victims by using hotel kitchens to provide food and by transporting supplies to the worst affected areas.

James Wix, who is helping to co-ordinate the community's response to the disaster, said: "As a family we will be funding the opening of our restaurant's kitchen and we will be providing as many meals as we can make for families that have been displaced."

Several British volunteers have transported food and water to villages south of Marrakesh. Irina Laski, 69, a retired Briton who has lived in Morocco for 13 years, described taking food and water to the Ouirgane area. "We have taken a truck and given food and water to people in the mountains who desperately need help," she said. "I have seen horrific destruction and scenes of mourning."

The British community in Marrakesh, estimated to number about 300 permanent residents, is embedded in the heart of the medina, or old city.

Branson, speaking from her El Fenn hotel, said her sons, Louis and Noah, were delivering supplies and raising funds. The family had already raised £200,000, she said. "By encouraging guests to come still, it's not just about keeping El Fenn going but keeping all the city's restaurants going: shops, handicrafts and tour guides."

Survivors of the country's worst earthquake in more than 60 years struggled to find food and shelter. The epicentre of Friday's quake was near the town of Ighil in al-Haouz province, 40 miles south of Marrakesh. Most of the dead — 1,351 — were in the district in the High Atlas mountains, officials said.

Residents dug the dead from the rubble using their bare hands. In some small villages the entire population appeared to have been entirely or mostly wiped out.



Vanessa Branson says tourists would help to keep the country going

Foreign aid starts to trickle in after king finally asks for help

Richard Spencer, David Chazan Paris

International aid was starting to arrive in Morocco last night as rescuers struggled to dig survivors out of villages high in the Atlas mountains.

The official death toll from Friday night's earthquake had risen to 2,122 by late yesterday afternoon, with 2,421 injured.

Both figures were expected to rise as rescuers reached remote areas of the mountains near the epicentre, about 45 miles south of Marrakesh.

There were concerns that aid was being hampered by a slow response from King Mohammed VI, who declared three days of mourning almost immediately but appeared initially reluctant to respond to countries offering assistance.

After an official invitation a Spanish search team, comprising 56 rescue workers, drilling equipment and four dogs, arrived yesterday morning. They were headed for Talat N'Yaaqoub, a small town near the epicentre, José Manuel Albares, the foreign minister, said. A second team of 30 rescuers and four search dogs left Madrid last night.

Last night the Moroccan foreign minister, Nasser Bourita, approved an offer from James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, of 60 rescuers, equipment and four dogs. They were being flown in by an RAF A400M aircraft.

France, however, said it had received no reply to a request to send teams. "We are at their disposal," President Macron said at the G20 summit in Delhi. "The second they request this aid, it will be deployed."

In Paris Arnaud Fraisse, head of the aid group Secouristes Sans Frontières, accused Morocco of "blocking rescue teams".

The delay may be connected to a long-running row between Paris and Rabat over Morocco's policies in the contested territory of Western Sahara.

Macron has been reluctant to back an "autonomy plan" for the region by its former colony. In contrast, Spain has backed Morocco.

In March a statement by Macron claiming that his relations with the king were "friendly" elicited a stinging response from Morocco's government. "Relations are neither friendly nor good, no more so between the two governments than between the Royal Palace and the Élysée," an official statement said.

The United States and other countries were also offering to send teams, including Turkey, which is recovering from an earthquake in February that killed more than 50,000 people.

Some of the most dramatic scenes came from Marrakesh, which is popular with European tourists for its rambling souk and rose-pink medieval mosques and palaces. However, the worst damage was in the mud-brick villages of the High Atlas, some of which were almost totally destroyed.

Residents in the village of Moulay Brahim could be seen digging into the wreckage with their bare hands. They said they had received little aid, including food and water.

At least 25 bodies were found in the village. Many more died in the larger settlement of Amizmiz and in Tafeghaghte, where more than 90 of the population of only 200 were feared to have been killed.

The government said it was sending tents and supplies to the region.

The World Health Organisation said more than 300,000 people had been directly affected by the disaster.

Footballers from Morocco's national team were filmed giving blood for survivors. Their Africa Cup of Nations qualifying match against Liberia on Saturday night was called off in light of the earthquake.

The earthquake region is well known for its historic buildings, particularly in Marrakesh, but throughout the mountains there are many outstanding examples. The striking, rectangular Tinmel Mosque, built in stone and earth by the Almohad dynasty in the 12th century, was all but destroyed, pictures showed, with just one wall standing.

"After a disaster like this, the most important thing is to preserve human lives," Eric Falt, from Unesco, said after a tour of the damaged old city, or Medina, in Marrakesh. "But it is also necessary to immediately plan for the second phase, which will include the reconstruction of schools and cultural assets affected by the earthquake."

The Moroccan government has promised that Tinmel Mosque will be rebuilt.

Secret Service agent throws doubt on theory that 'magic bullet' killed JFK

United States

David Charter Washington

A retired Secret Service agent present at John F Kennedy's assassination has spoken out for the first time, 60 years after the event, to challenge the official version, fuelling the theory that there could have been a second gunman.

Paul Landis has thrown doubt on the "magic bullet" explanation for one of the shots fired by Lee Harvey Oswald passing through the president and causing several wounds to John Connally, the governor of Texas.

Landis, 88, said he had retrieved the bullet from the back of the car seat behind Kennedy and it ended up on the governor's stretcher by accident, which means that it was mistakenly thought by investigators to have come from Connally's body.

The Warren Commission, the official inquiry into Kennedy's assassination, concluded that the one bullet must have taken an unusual path through Kennedy's throat from behind, hitting Connally's right shoulder then wounding his back, chest, right wrist and left thigh.

This was key to the official verdict that Oswald alone fired three times from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, a building overlooking the road, wounding Kennedy with the first "magic bullet", missing with the second and killing him with a shot to the head on the third.

Landis, who has written a book, *The Final Witness*, to be published next month, said he originally believed that Oswald was a lone gunman but was now questioning that conclusion.

"At this point I'm beginning to doubt myself," he told The New York Times. "Now I begin to wonder."

Landis was assigned to protect Jackie Kennedy on the visit to Dallas on November 22, 1963 and was standing on the running board of the Cadillac immediately behind the limousine carrying the president, the first lady, Connally and his wife.

When he heard the first shot, Landis turned to look over his right shoulder in the direction of the shot but saw nothing. When he turned back he saw Kennedy raise his arms and realised that the president had been hit.

Clint Hill, his fellow agent, sprinted from the Cadillac and leapt on to the president's car as two more shots rang out. Landis said he had to duck to avoid being splattered with the president's blood. He said Hill turned to him with his thumb down, signalling that Kennedy was dead.

The vehicles sped to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where Landis said he found a bullet lodged in the seat behind where Kennedy had been sitting. He retrieved it and said he had intended to hand it to investigators but, in the confusion, he placed it on the president's stretcher.

It was later found on Connally's stretcher, leading Landis to suggest that the stretchers must have bumped together and the bullet got transferred from one to the other.

"There was nobody there to secure the scene, and that was a big, big bother to me," he said. "All the agents that were there were focused on the president. This was all going on so quickly and I was just afraid that it was a piece of evidence; I realised right away [it was] very important and I didn't want it to disappear or get lost. So it was 'Paul, you've got to make a decision' and I grabbed it."

The Warren Commission did not interview Landis. Its report said that it "eliminated President Kennedy's stretcher as a source of the bullet" because he stayed on his stretcher while doctors tried to save his life and was not removed until he was placed in a coffin.

Landis is adamant that he put the bullet next to Kennedy's body. Investigators said it was fired by the same Mannlicher-Carcano rifle found in the Texas School Book Depository.

Although the bullet was in almost pristine condition, successive experts have concluded that it plausibly took the strange trajectory that earned it its nickname.

Landis speculates that it did not penetrate the president's back deeply but popped out again into the car, which means that it was not the bullet that wounded Connally.

There has long been a conspiracy theory about a second sniper on the "grassy knoll" near the scene of the shooting, which had a stockade fence that would have been an ideal cover.

Gerald Posner, the author of *Case Closed*, a 1993 book that concluded that Oswald acted on his own, said Landis's story did not add up. "People's memories generally do not improve over time," he said. "Even assuming that he is accurately describing what happened with the bullet, it might mean nothing more than we now know that the bullet that came out of Governor Connally did so in the limousine, not on a stretcher in Parkland [hospital] where it was found."

Landis said he had never subscribed to conspiracy theories and simply wanted to tell what he did at the time and leave it to others to draw their conclusions. "There's no goal at this point," he said. "I just think it had been long enough that I needed to tell my story."

BETTMANN ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; JAMES W ALTGENS/AP; FBI/EPA

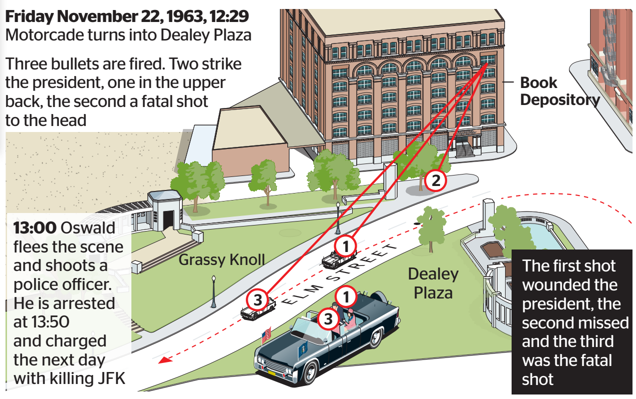




Kennedy smiles at well-wishers before he was shot. Paul Landis stood on the running board of the Cadillac behind the president's car. He says he put a bullet from the car on JFK's stretcher but it got moved in the confusion



Lee Harvey Oswald fired three shots from the Dallas book depository



G20 fails to condemn Russia's invasion

India

Catherine Philp Delhi

Moscow claimed victory in a battle over a G20 declaration in Delhi lamenting the "suffering" of the Ukrainian people but omitting any mention of Russian aggression, far less condemnation of its invasion of a sovereign state.

The joint communiqué was a departure from last year's declaration, which strongly condemned the invasion and called on Moscow to withdraw troops.

Narendra Modi, the Indian prime minister, had faced the risk that his summit would be the first that failed to produce an agreed joint communiqué. Instead the declaration merely noted the "adverse impact of wars and conflicts around the world" and vowed "to support a comprehensive, just and durable peace".

Ukraine angrily dismissed the declaration as "nothing to be proud of" for its failure to name Russia as the aggressor. "It is clear that the participation of the Ukrainian side would have allowed the participants to better understand the situation," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

Sergey Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, claimed diplomatic victory. "We were able to prevent the West's attempts to 'Ukrainise' the summit agenda," he said. Lavrov praised India for putting to the fore the views of the Brics countries that have largely avoided taking sides in the Ukraine conflict, wary of alienating Russia but hoping to hedge their bets with the West too.

Brics refers to the informal but evolving grouping of emerging economies comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, which convened in Johannesburg. "The India presidency has really managed to coalesce G20 members from the global south," Lavrov said. One of Modi's ambitions was to make India "a voice for the global south". He scored a win in securing agreement for getting the African Union a permanent seat at G20.

The fact a declaration was issued at all was good news for Modi, who has used the summit to boost his reputation at home and take credit for India's emerging position on the world stage.

West must prepare for a splintering Russia, Edward Lucas, page 24

What's in a name? Musk's 11th child is Techno Mechanicus

David Charter

The name of Elon Musk's eleventh child has been revealed in a new biography, as Techno Mechanicus.

Little else is known about the child, his third with the Canadian singer Grimes, who joins a sister, Exa Dark Siderael, one, nicknamed Y, and a brother, X AE A-12, who is three and known as X.

The disclosure comes shortly after the first photo was published of the 52-year-old billionaire's twins with Shivon Zilis, director of operations at Neuralink, the neurotechnology company he launched in 2016. Walter Isaacson, the author of a forthcoming biography about Musk, revealed their names as Strider and Azure.

Musk had six children with his first wife, Justine Wilson, a Canadian author: Nevada Alexander, who died of sudden infant death syndrome aged ten weeks, the twins Griffin and Vivian, and triplet sons Kai, Saxon and Damian.

Grimes, 35, born Claire Elise Boucher, revealed the name of her daughter with Musk last year, saying that she and Musk also called her Sailor Mars in a reference to the Sailor Moon manga series. Exa Dark Siderael was a compromise. "I was fighting for Odysseus Musk," she told Vanity Fair. "A girl named Odysseus is my dream."

Hollywood stars say sorry for letters supporting Masterson

United States
David Charter Washington

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis have apologised for sending letters to a court pleading for leniency during the sentencing of Danny Masterson, their former co-star, for his conviction for raping two women.

The Hollywood couple said they did not mean to "undermine the testimony of the victims" and were sorry if they had "retraumatised them in any way".

Masterson, 47, was given a 30-year prison term for the two attacks that took place at his Hollywood home in 2003 when he was at the height of his fame in *That '70s Show*, a sitcom that also starred Kutcher, 45, and Kunis, 40.

A judge in Los Angeles handed one of the toughest sentences of the MeToo era after hearing statements from Masterson's victims, including one who said: "When you raped me, you stole from me. That's what rape is, a theft of the spirit."

Kutcher's letter described Masterson as a man who treated people "with decency, equality, and generosity". Kunis wrote that Masterson was "an outstanding role model and friend".

In an Instagram video Kutcher said: "We are aware of the pain that has been caused by the character letters that we wrote on behalf of Danny Masterson … A couple of months ago Danny's family reached out to us and asked us to write character letters to represent the person that we knew for 25 years so that the judge could take that into full consideration.

"They were intended for the judge to read and not to undermine the testimony of the victims or retraumatise them in any way. We would never want to do that and we're sorry if that has taken place."


Kutcher and Kunis apologised to the victims in a video on Instagram

Kunis added: "We support victims. We have done this historically through our work and will continue to do so in the future … the letters were not written to question the legitimacy of the judicial system, or the validity of the jury's ruling. Our heart goes out to every single person who's ever been a victim of sexual assault, sexual abuse or rape."

DEAN TREML/RED BULL/GETTY IMAGES


High hopes Colombia's Maria Paula Quintero launches herself 70ft into the Neretva river from the Old Bridge in Mostar, Bosnia Herzegovina, in the Diving World Series

Danish schools asked to call time on teenage binge drinkers

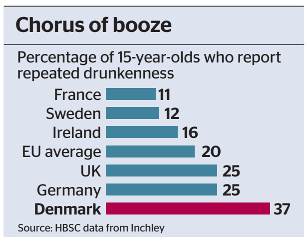
Denmark
David Williams Copenhagen

It is a Danish rite of passage. Every September thousands of students aged 16 to 19 begin high school — or gymnasium as it is known — in the traditional manner … by binge drinking.

The new intake gather in parks for "puttefests", events that celebrate the start of the next year of learning with alcohol, and lots of it. Students can take part in mass cuddle parties and the freshers wear plain white T-shirts which older students write scribbled messages on as the booze kicks in.

Helped by a heady combination of tradition, peer pressure and a law that allows 16 year olds to buy alcohol, young Danes are among the biggest teenage drinkers in Europe.

But calls are growing for the alcohol-fuelled partying to stop. "When you look at it from the outside the issue in Danish high schools looks insane. I think it's crazy, but it's a cultural issue and we have been struggling with this for years," said Jon Hestbech, vice-principal of the Naestved Gymnasium, the largest high school in Denmark.



Hestbech is leading the charge to try to turn teens in the town about 45 miles (70km) south of Copenhagen away from booze. His school has just hosted its first alcohol-free puttefest, which Hestbech claimed was a big success. "We experienced no problems and very little protest against the lack of alcohol," Hestbech said. Up to 50 high schools are now expected to follow suit.

The move was backed by the government. The Danish Health Authority last month announced an "advisory, not legislative" proposal for an alcohol-free start for the first two months for students in higher education. "This proposal is essential for the protection of young people coming directly from secondary schools into high schools," Niels Sando, a senior adviser at the Danish Health Authority, said.

Studies have long shown teenage Danes have a drink problem. A 2020 European Commission report claimed that Danes aged between 16 and 25 were Europe's biggest binge drinkers. The World Health Organisation reported in 2016 that almost 16 per cent of Danes between 15 and 19 who died prematurely did so for alcohol-related reasons. The number rose to 23 per cent for 20 to 24-year-olds.

Some argue that the country's politicians should step in and take decisive action by raising the age for people to buy alcohol in Denmark to 18.

Eva Krarup, principal at the Gladsaxe Gymnasium, just north of the Danish capital, said tougher action was needed. "You have the health authorities and their recommendations and, on the other hand, you have the politicians who are not willing to regulate this situation. The only real way to solve this problem is we raise the age limit for buying alcohol to 18."

According to a 2023 Voxmeter poll, six in ten Danes support raising the drinking age, but, despite promises to do so, politicians have failed to act.

Mette Clausen, who runs U-Turn, an anonymous counselling service for young substance abusers in Copenhagen, blames Denmark's untouchable alcohol culture. "It's not even a question of if you are going to start drinking, for young people it's when. It's almost expected. This alcoholic culture is more than peer pressure, it's just considered normal that you should be drinking," said Clausen.

This year's students though did not want to be the guinea pigs in any push to clampdown on binge drinking. When asked, Mia, a 16-year-old student, said: "Ban alcohol? Then I will just drink more before the school party!"

French app to help tourists avoid scams and rip-offs

France
David Chazan Paris

Celebrated for their culture and cuisine, the French win fewer plaudits for customer service or their readiness to please tourists.

With up to 20 million international visitors expected during next summer's Paris Olympics, President Macron's government is anxious for them to gain a favourable impression of France.

Accordingly, it has developed a mobile app to help to protect tourists from overcharging or scams by taxi drivers, car hire firms, hotels, restaurants and shops. Visitors will be able to download a free English version of the app, which they can use to flag up problems or ask for advice. It will explain how to obtain refunds and offer information about consumers' rights.

"Like all consumers, visitors from abroad need to be protected," a spokeswoman for the General Directorate for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Prevention, said. "We want to guarantee that tourists enjoy the same level of protection as French people and give them practical responses during their stay in France."

The app, named Signal Conso, which can be roughly translated as Consumer Report, is already available in French. It has been used to make nearly 600,000 complaints or claims. Acclaimed as a step towards improving France's notoriously poor customer service, it was created as a website in 2020. A mobile phone app was introduced in the spring and has been downloaded more than 100,000 times.

Nearly 15 per cent of problems reported via the app have been tourism-related, involving cafés, restaurants, travel or leisure activities.

Visitors can also use it to seek advice and general information on topics ranging from travelling to France with pets to how much cash they are allowed to bring into the country.

The government plans to publicise the app with a promotional campaign on social and international media. Signs with a QR code will be placed in airports and stations to allow visitors to download it easily.

The app can also be used to report dangerous or defective products, counterfeit goods and fraud.

If consumers give their names, the company or trader they are complaining about can contact them to offer to settle the dispute. If they choose to remain anonymous the complaint is still sent to the traders in the hope that it will encourage them to mend their ways. The authorities will now use it to help to identify dishonest traders who target tourists.

World

A very regal escape to the chateau … yours for £1.2m

France
David Chazan Paris

A 19th-century chateau built as a gift for the Count of Chambord, the pretender to the throne of France when Napoleon III was emperor, has been put up for sale.

Filled with memorabilia from the Bourbon monarchy, including portraits of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, the Château de Martres-de-Rivière is about an hour's drive from Toulouse, in southwest France. The fleur-de-lys, the lily-shaped emblem of the Bourbon dynasty, is carved above every door frame and features on most walls.

The twelve-bedroom, seven-bathroom chateau, advertised as "newly refurbished with a swimming pool" and a 1.9-acre walled park is priced at €1.4 million (£1.2 million). It has three reception rooms and a games room.

When it was built by nobles in 1867 Henri d'Artois, the Count of Chambord and Duke of Bordeaux, was in exile. He probably never visited the chateau, which has two corner turrets at the front and a tower built into its rear wall.

D'Artois was the grandson of Charles X, who reigned from 1824 until he was deposed in 1830. He and his family took refuge at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh and later at Schloss Frohsdorf in Austria.

So-called Legitimists continued to support his claim to the throne. They rejected Louis Philippe, who was named king after Charles was overthrown, as a usurper. D'Artois was the head of the eldest branch of the Bourbon dynasty; Louis Philippe, the Duke of Orléans, descended from the cadet branch and was backed by a faction known as the Orléanists.

After the Second French Empire proclaimed by Napoleon III collapsed in 1870, D'Artois returned to France, having secured the backing of both Legitimists and Orléanists. The royalists gained a majority in the National Assembly and for a time the restoration of the monarchy with D'Artois as king appeared probable.

The plan failed, however, because he insisted that he would accept the crown only if France abandoned the tricolour flag, which was associated with the Revolution, and returned to the fleur-de-lys.

BELLES DEMEURES



Château de Martres-de-Rivière near Toulouse, which was built for Henri d'Artois, the Count of Chambord, is now on the market

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FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

A controversial installation was a howl of protest at the gentrification that has driven artists and dreamers from Sweden's second city

Alex Maxia
GOTHENBURG





Ordinarily, the Gotaplatsen square, in the middle of Sweden's second city, is a fairly bare place. Between the austere lines of Gothenburg's art gallery, theatre and central library there is no ornamentation, except for a fountain with a big bronze statue of a grim-faced Poseidon.

One wonders what the old sea god would have made of the spectacle that unfolded behind his back this summer.

Around two caravans parked next to the contemporary art museum, a mass of wood offcuts and scrap materials accreted to form a stage, a viewing deck and an elevated lavatory where visitors could relieve themselves while gazing out over Poseidon's muscled back into the heart of the city.

The "Dreamer's Monument", assembled by a collective of local artists and covering the area of a football penalty box, was festooned with more slogans than the T-shirt section in an H&M store. However, one message was at its core: a shout of protest against the gentrification that is driving artists out of the city.

"Gothenburg has a long history of alternative culture, which is disappearing. That is why we are doing this," said the artist Stefan Karlsson, from a caravan office.

Founded 400 years ago by the Swedish warrior king Gustavus Adolphus and built up by Dutch merchants along similar lines to Amsterdam, Gothenburg became a centre of trade and is still the biggest port in Scandinavia.

As the boom times faded and depopulation began to take its toll during a recession in the 1990s, the artists, hipsters and musicians moved in, taking advantage of the cheap rents to set up studios, bars, nightclubs and experimental restaurants.

Now the city centre is expanding and going upmarket at a dizzying pace, driving up the cost of housing and communal spaces.

The area of Lindholmen, once home to shipyards, is studded with cranes as construction companies build complexes of offices and luxury housing, such as Karlatornet, a 246m skyscraper of expensive flats that is the tallest inhabited building in Europe. Its penthouses sell for as much as £5 million.



Artists claim the creative heart of the city has been lost to newbuilds

There is concern that Gothenburg will be hollowed out and will end up like Stockholm, where waiting lists for a flat can stretch for more than 20 years.

"Gothenburg was an industrial city and, when industry left, it left empty places for art to be made, which gave it an amazing scene. Now it's turning into a service city where there are only offices," said the artist Adam Ward.

Henrik Kant, an urban planner from the city council, shares some of the group's misgivings. "When we plan and build, the gentrification process of that area follows and people move out," he said. "We need to reconsider this. If the city wants to remain attractive, it needs to encompass several dimensions, including the cultural one. We can't just have fine art, concert halls and opera."

However, the makeshift "town" in the square, which has been dismantled, did not meet with universal approval. The three main centre-right parties on the council suggested it muddied the city's image and amounted to building without permission.

"You can't install it wherever you want because it's art," said Hampus Magnusson, a councillor from the conservative Moderate Party.

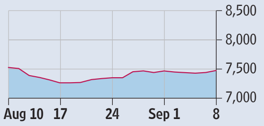
It boils down to who the city is for: the artists said it was no longer a place for the creatives who had given the port its soul.

For Magnusson, however, it is going through a transformation. He cited a concert by the singer Laleh, originally from Iran, that filled the 43,000-seat Ullevi football stadium. "Gothenburg is not only a city of dreamers but also a city where dreams can come true," he said.

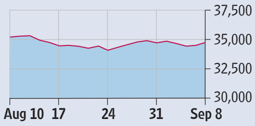
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Friday's close. Change on the week)

FTSE 100
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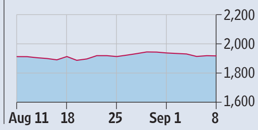


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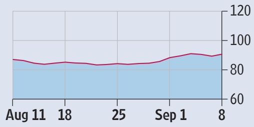


COMMODITIES

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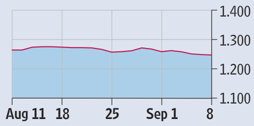


Brent crude
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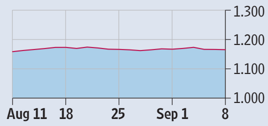


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News publishers 'face tsunami of job cuts as AI empowers Big Tech'

Jack Barnett

Artificial intelligence is poised to hand more power to the biggest technology companies, such as Google, and will create a "tsunami" of job losses at publishers, the chief executive of News Corporation has warned.

Speaking at a technology conference in San Francisco last week, Robert Thomson said the speed at which search engines gained influence over news distribution would be "amplified many times over in the era of AI". He added: "Clearly, advertising revenue has shifted from the creator to the distributor. And so, again, it really is incumbent on these [technology] companies to recognise that responsibility in the end to their own products and, certainly, to society."

News Corporation, the publisher of The Times, has challenged Google for the past decade and a half over concerns that the search engine has unfairly benefited from using news outlets' content. This helped to lead to legislation in Australia in 2021 that effectively meant Google and Facebook had to pay for distributing news. Other countries are drawing up plans for similar laws. News Corp and Google also have agreed a partnership that involves the technology group paying to use content.

AI text-generation tools, such as ChatGPT, scrape existing data and news content to update their models. This has led to threats of legal action from publishers against OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, saying that they are not being compensated for "training" the tools.

Thomson, 62, said: "What you will see over time is a lot of litigation. Some media companies have already begun those discussions."

He said News Corp, which also publishes The Wall Street Journal and other titles, was engaged in "various negotiations" with artificial intelligence companies over their use of its content, but he said that it did not plan to pursue legal action at this stage. "It's incumbent on the big players to reward those who created that content, or else they're actually undermining the act of creation," Thomson told the Goldman Sachs Communacopia and Technology Conference.

AI threatens to shake up the news industry, with fears that generative text tools could replace journalists and other newsroom production staff.

Continued on page 34

Mini future in the UK guaranteed

BMW to announce investment in Cowley plant

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

The long-term future of Mini production in Britain has been secured, with BMW set to announce an investment of hundreds of millions of pounds in its factory at Cowley in Oxford.

The announcement, expected this morning, is likely to give the green light to the assembly of zero-emission battery electric Minis into the next decade. It is understood that the new investment has attracted tens of millions of pounds of UK taxpayer support. It will secure the future of thousands of workers at the factory and its component facilities at Hams Hall, near Coventry, and Swindon.

Before the announcement, Rishi Sunak, the prime minister, said: "BMW's investment is another shining example of how the UK is the best place to build cars of the future." Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, said it was a "huge vote of confidence" in Britain.

The announcement will be the latest positive news for the UK automotive sector, which had appeared to be falling behind in the electrification revolution.

Tata, the Indian parent of Jaguar Land Rover, said in July that it would build a battery plant, or "gigafactory", in Somerset. Last week, the first Vauxhall Combo Electric vans started rolling off the assembly line at the old Astra factory in Ellesmere Port. And Toyota has revealed that it has produced ten prototype zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell pick-up trucks at its Burnaston plant in Derbyshire. That offset negative news earlier in the year, including Ford cutting 1,300 jobs at its research and development centre in Essex; the financial collapse of the planned Britishvolt battery gigafactory in Northumberland; and the abrupt closure with the loss of hundreds of jobs of Arrival, an electric van and bus company that was about to go into production in Oxfordshire.

Ministers are believed to have been jolted into supporting the Oxford plant after The Times revealed in October that the next immediate generation of the electric Mini would be produced in China by BMW and its Chinese associate, Great Wall Motor.

Mini executives had warned of the operational difficulty and inefficiency at Cowley of running assembly lines producing both battery electric vehicles and cars with internal combustion engines. Stefanie Wurst, BMW's head of the Mini brand, had told The Times: "Oxford is not geared up for electric vehicles. It will need renovation and investment."

The factory is the second biggest car plant in the country after Nissan at Sunderland. BMW Mini, Nissan and JLR together account for three quarters of car production in the UK.

Mini is one of the great surviving heritage brands from the heyday of British motoring. Other such brands, including Rolls-Royce, based in West Sussex and also owned by BMW, and Bentley, based in Crewe, have pledged to be all-electric by 2030. Jaguar has said it will be an all-electric brand from 2025.



Ex-footballer Ian Wright in Manors apparel. The company is now worth £5 million

Golf clothes find a £1m perfect fit

Richard Fletcher

The actor Nicholas Hoult and musician Tom McFarland are among angel and institutional investors that have backed Manors, the fast-growing golf apparel and lifestyle business that numbers Ian Wright, the former England footballer, among its fans.

The fashion brand has raised £1 million in a fundraising that has put a £5 million valuation on the company.

Manors was founded in 2019 by Jojo Regan, 29, Luke Davies, 29, and Nick Watts, 25, keen golfers who were frustrated with the lack of fashionable golf clothing for the under-35 market.

The money raised will be used to expand in South Korea and Japan, which combined now account for more than 20 per cent of revenue, to open a "clubhouse" in central London and to develop the wider business, investing in growing the operations and marketing teams. "While we are committed to building in the UK, there is a huge interest in golf globally. Given our status as a British brand, we've picked up strong interest across territories like South Korea and Japan," Regan said.

Last year Manors worked with Adidas to launch The Beautiful Game, an apparel range that took its inspiration from football fashion.

Hoult, 33, is best known for playing Tony in *Skins*, the television drama. He came to prominence in *About a Boy*, the 2002 film that also starred Hugh Grant. McFarland co-founded Jungle, an electronic music act.

Regan said: "For a long time, the golf market has been dominated by just a handful of brands who had little incentive to shake things up. Clothing was designed by and for 40-plus-year-olds. We, the younger golfer, were forced into either wearing outdated and unflattering clothing or non-golf-related brands. Manors was established to fill that gap, designing golf-appropriate garments engineered for the modern swing but that celebrate the game as something to be explored and enjoyed."

Need to know

1 One in five families will be living in homes costing more than a third of their income, defined as unaffordable, by the end of this decade, according to a study. Without a government plan, an extra 1.7 million households will have unaffordable homes by 2030, the National Housing Federation said. **Page 2**

2 Ten of Britain's biggest retailers have agreed to fund a new police operation to crack down on shoplifting as part of government efforts to ensure that all forces adopt a zero-tolerance approach to the crime. Pegasus will receive £600,000 from store groups including Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Next. **Page 5**

3 The long-term future of Mini production in Britain has been secured, with BMW set to announce an investment of hundreds of millions of pounds in its factory at Cowley in Oxford. **Page 33**

4 Artificial intelligence is poised to hand more power to the biggest technology companies, such as Google, and will create a tsunami of job losses at publishers, Robert Thomson, the chief executive of News Corporation, has said. **Page 33**

5 A consortium of angel and institutional investors have backed Manors, the golf apparel and lifestyle business. It has raised £1 million in a fundraising that gave a £5 million valuation to the company. **Page 33**

6 The supermarket price war will intensify this week, with Waitrose, owned by the John Lewis Partnership, set to cut the prices of 250 household staples, including chicken and pasta.

7 Pressure is growing on fund management firms to appoint more women to run new funds in the wake of a report suggesting that the push towards gender equality in the sector has ground almost to a halt. Women account for only 12.1 per cent of more than 18,000 money managers tracked worldwide by Citywire. **Page 36**

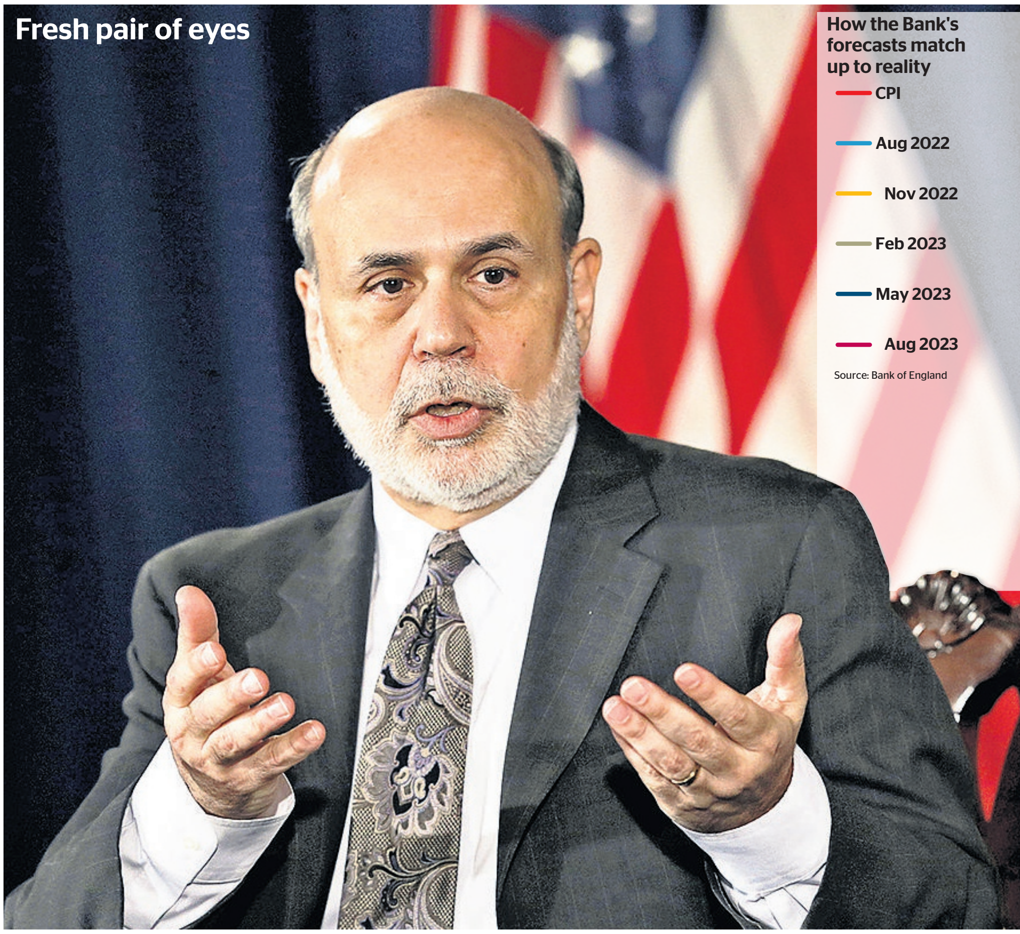
8 Sir Mene Pangalos, the executive vice-president, biopharmaceuticals research and development, at AstraZeneca, is preparing to head for the exit after almost 14 years of helping it to become Britain's most valuable public company and one of the world's biggest pharmaceuticals groups. **Pages 38-39**

9 Retail bosses have written to the chancellor calling for a freeze in business rates in the autumn statement in November to avoid the industry being charged hundreds of millions of pounds in extra tax. **Page 39**

10 Chris Rea's new factory at the Rotherham-based Aesseal, which sits within the wider AES Engineering group, is virtually empty. "What we've got here is a window to the world of modern manufacturing." He has ordered 32 robots costing £13.1 million. Seven will be housed in his so-called factory for the future, with space for six more. **Times Enterprise Network, pages 40-41**

Bernanke ready to mark

Mehreen Khan Economics Editor



When experts at the Bank of England begin their next round of forecasting for the nation's economy, they will be watched closely by an outside observer. Ben Bernanke, the Nobel prizewinning economist and former US Federal Reserve chairman, has been charged with leading an independent review of the Bank's forecasting models.

He is the latest in a series of American economists to have been drafted in by the Bank to provide an independent evaluation of its work since it gained its independence from the Treasury in 1997. Before Bernanke, Don Kohn, David Stockton and Kevin Warsh were Fed officials to have written reviews of the UK's monetary policy framework.

However, Bernanke, 69, is a superstar like few others in the world of central banking. He gained plaudits for steering the Fed during the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. That period of 2006-14 was one in which the United States led a global monetary response by slashing interest rates to zero and carrying out mass emergency purchases of government and corporate debt to revive the economy after financial implosion. In 2022, he received the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences, often known as the Nobel prize in economics, alongside two fellow authors for research during the 1980s on how bank runs can deepen economic downturns.

"He is an extremely well-rounded practitioner and, as a theorist, has specific knowledge in areas that are relevant to recent challenges faced by monetary policy," Katherine Neiss, chief European economist at PGIM Fixed Income and a former Bank official, said. "Bernanke was in charge of the Fed during a once-in-a-lifetime shock and his academic background is steeped in understanding the scarring effect of deep supply-side shocks."

Bernanke's review, which started this summer and will present its findings next year, comes at perhaps the most critical period for the Bank's credibility since its ratesetting monetary policy committee was formed 26 years ago. The Bank has faced a barrage of criticism from political voices on the left and right and even former officials. Last week Andy Haldane, chief economist at the Bank until 2021, said that ratesetters had made "regrettable" mistakes that had worsened Britain's inflationary headache by continuing with its quantitative easing policy in 2021.

The institution is also caught in the crosshairs of a broader culture war, being accused by commentators of dropping the ball on inflation because it has been preoccupied with new policy areas such as climate change or improving its own internal diversity. A common view of the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street is that it has succumbed to "groupthink" on inflation as its ratesetters do not closely assess metrics such as money supply when setting interest rates.



Andrew Bailey has welcomed the review by Bernanke, above

The decision to appoint Bernanke is partly a rebuff to accusations that the MPC is intellectually lightweight, yet even his arrival has been met with suspicion. John Baron, a Conservative MP, recently asked Andrew Bailey, the Bank's governor, whether the American would provide adequate scrutiny of the Bank's forecasts as a card-carrying member of the central banking fraternity.

"The concern some of us have is that the appointment would not challenge the groupthink mentality that bedevils not just the Bank of England but central banks generally,"

Jobs 'perfect storm fuelling inflation'

Jack Barnett Economics Correspondent

A "perfect storm" in the jobs market risks generating a "wage-price spiral" that would make inflation tougher to bring down, a report has warned.

Resilient demand for workers, despite the economy slowing, is said to have strengthened employees' confidence over pay rises. In research by Robert Half, a recruitment agency, and the Centre for Economics and Business Research consultancy, faith in future pay awards pushed its jobs confidence index into positive territory for the first time in more than a year.

Rising wages have made workers more confident that they can receive higher pay, aided by unemployment remaining low amid stuttering economic growth. Official statistics suggest that pay rose at the fastest pace in two decades over the past quarter, while the jobless rate, although up, is still low at 4.2 per cent.

New pay numbers tomorrow could exceed the rate of inflation in the consumer prices index for the first time since the early stages of 2022. Worker shortages have encouraged staff to leave their employers if pay rises disappoint. Staff scarcity means that companies are increasing wages.

Matt Weston, senior managing director UK and Ireland at Robert Half, said that labour mobility was high as workers left their jobs to seek better pay elsewhere, creating what he described as a "perfect storm" of job market pressures. He added: "Affected businesses consequently need to deal with such talent loss in a tight market, fuelling the wage spiral we are seeing today."

4.2%

Unemployment rate April to June
Office for National Statistics

Accelerating pay in response to high inflation has raised concerns over businesses increasing prices, sparking a "wage-price spiral" that embeds elevated inflation into the economy. It was a scenario that gripped Britain in the 1970s and required interest rates to rise sharply. The Bank of England has increased interest rates to a 15-year high of 5.25 per cent.

Britain's average pay statistics mask differences in wage growth among sectors. Financial services workers received the steepest pay increase in June at 9.6 per cent.

Although rising quickly, pay growth has trailed inflation for nearly two years. Rising energy and raw materials costs and interest rate increases also have made production more expensive. However, experts have said that the chances of a 1970s-style wage spiral hitting Britain again is low.

There were signs in the research that the risk of recession is amplifying job security concerns, which typically results in workers staying with their employer or tempering their salary demands.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Job losses fear as AI boosts tech

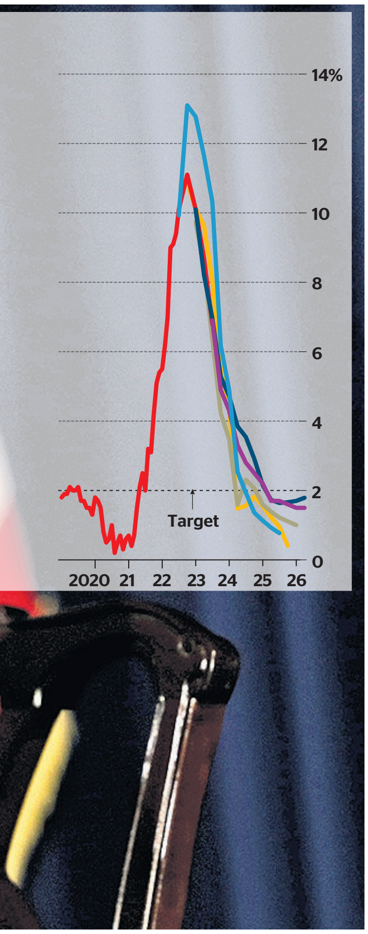
Thomson expressed concerns that more power would be taken away from traditional publishers, as tools such as ChatGPT meant that content was generated automatically, more cheaply and from a wider range of sources.

The technology is able to harness existing information and to generate content at speed, raising the risk of what Thomson called a "tsunami" of job losses. According to data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 57 per cent of newsroom jobs in the United States disappeared between 2008 and 2020, with the number falling from 71,000 to 31,000.

"We're facing another wave, in this case, a tsunami of job losses because of the impact of AI," Thomson said. He said there was a risk that "insight" would be lost alongside jobs as AI text tools risked damaging the quality of coverage.

News organisations are drawing up strategies on how best to use AI tools to generate content. Bild, Germany's best-selling newspaper, said in June that it was cutting hundreds of jobs and was

Bank's homework



Baron said during a hearing with the governor at the Commons' Treasury select committee.

Bailey insisted that the Bank would not "constrain" the scope of Bernanke's review: "It will go where it goes. He is very much in control of that and that is as we want it. We are very eager to do this."

The Bank's court will publish the final terms of the review at the end of the month, but already it has said that the exercise will focus on how the MPC's models for forecasting inflation have



War in Ukraine has been among the unexpected challenges at the Bank

coped with a series of economic shocks, including the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

Huw Pill, the Bank's chief economist and a member of the MPC, has hinted that ratesetters have begun to put less weight on forecasts, which are published four times a year, when making their decisions on interest rates.

Bernanke, who is not getting paid for the role, will sit in on forecasting rounds with the Bank's staff and the MPC ahead of November's *Monetary Policy Report*, which is when new projections on growth and inflation are released.

The Bank stands apart from counterparts such as the Fed and the European Central Bank, as the MPC collectively adopts the forecast as its own. This means there are debates among ratesetters about what the models produce, creating an inherently more subjective process than in other central banks, where forecasts are produced by staff.

Jagjit Chadha, director of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, believes that the Bernanke review offers an opportunity to scrutinise "not the models *per se*, but the narrative that is constructed around the forecast.

"There is a distinction between risks and uncertainty in a forecast. When the Bank runs forecasts during the pandemic or after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there is uncertainty. The bigger problem is how forecasters deal with the risks around what they produce, as uncertainty, by definition, cannot be known.

"It is about the Bank communicating and understanding that its models are set up to deal with one scenario, but then to look back and ask how they behaved when that scenario did not play out. It's not clear how Bernanke will deal with that."

Another area where Bernanke can compare and contrast with the Fed is the American central bank's publication of "dot plots" showing how its ratesetters plan to vote in future meetings. The dot plot was introduced under Bernanke in 2012 to guide market expectations for future interest rate moves, a key channel through which monetary policy works.

Jumana Saleheen, chief economist at Vanguard, an asset manager, said a UK version of the dot plot would provide a more "coherent view on where interest rates are likely to be". She called the present system, where the Bank produces two inflation forecasts — using the latest interest rates and the market path for interest rates — as "outdated".

Last November the Bank came under fire for using its forecast to tell investors to urgently dial back their expectations for the base rate to climb above 6 per cent after the mini-budget fiasco. Saleheen said this had added to general confusion over the forecasts.

The review also could recommend low-hanging-fruit reforms, such as Bailey holding regular press conferences after every interest rate decision, as happens in America and the eurozone. A regular system for external reviews carried out every five to ten years by law would be welcome, too, Neiss said, mimicking an approach adopted by the Bank of Canada.

Much of the final scope of Bernanke's exercise will be left to his discretion, but it is unlikely to satisfy all of the critics. "The criticism of the Bank covers such a wide range of issues that it is foolhardy to think Bernanke can do it all," Gerard Lyons, the chief economic strategist at Netwealth, said. For him, the three issues that needed to be tackled covered the Bank's personalities, its policy decisions and its process.

"Bernanke will touch on policy and process, but personality also comes into it," Lyons said. "We need to ask why there is groupthink in the Bank and why Treasury mandarins are all important in the appointments [to the MPC]."

replacing editors with AI. Alex Springer, its publisher, has said AI would make many jobs that support production of its journalism redundant.

However, ChatGPT and other language-based AI tools have limitations as, with existing software, they can only create content based on current information.

Thomson told the conference in San Francisco that the danger was that "it's rubbish in, rubbish out and, in this case, rubbish all about".

He added: "What you might find is that you have this ever-shrinking cycle of sanity surrounded by a reservoir of rubbish . . . It will evolve into essentially a maggot-ridden mind mould.

"We live in a world where there's a surplus of subjectivity. And the problem with AI is it can recycle subjectivity and pretend that it's objectivity."

Mathias Döpfner, Axel Springer's chief executive, predicted in February that AI would soon be better at the "aggregation of information" than human journalists.

He said that publishers would have to focus on the "best original content", such as investigative journalism and original commentary.

Waitrose cuts the cost of 250 products as price war heats up

Jessica Newman

The supermarket price war will intensify this week, with Waitrose set to cut the prices of 250 household staples.

From Wednesday the upmarket grocer will reduce the price of products including chicken, pasta, potatoes and sausages by an average of 10 per cent.

The move comes as the supermarket, owned by the John Lewis Partnership, is asking workers to accept more flexible hours to boost its productivity and keep costs under control.

Last week Tina Mitchell, Waitrose's retail director, told partners at Waitrose — whose staff own the business — that they would need to adopt more flexible hours after calling the supermarket "one of the least productive grocers in the UK". As part of these changes, Waitrose is considering scrapping night shifts at a number of shops.

"Unless we change how we work, there's a real danger that the partnership won't exist in the form that we want it to in the future," Mitchell said in a staff video seen by the Financial Times.

It will be the third time that the supermarket has lowered its prices this year as part of a £100 million plan to reflect easing food prices inflation.

Other supermarkets including Tesco, Morrisons and Marks & Spencer have been trimming the prices of hundreds of products this year, having acknowledged the need to lower costs for consumers to stop them turning to discounters.

Charlotte Di Cello, commercial director at Waitrose, said: "Giving our customers good value for money is a priority and we continue to work hard to keep our prices low."

John Lewis Partnership reports its half-year results on Thursday. The partnership said in March that the online growth of the pandemic had been "partly reversed", with shoppers buying more groceries from discounters.

The week ahead

Few would envy Dame Sharon White when she reports half-year results on Thursday. The chairwoman of the John Lewis Partnership survived a confidence vote over her leadership in May, but the retailer's partnership council was less impressed with the financial performance of the business and White has pledged to get the employee-owned group back into profit before 2026.

The partnership made an underlying pre-tax loss of £78 million in the year to the end of January, bigger than the £50 million loss that analysts had been expecting, after a £181 million profit a year earlier. Costs rose by £180 million last year amid higher commodity prices, energy bills and staff wages.

White, 56, will seek to reassure staff partners that it is delivering progress on its transformation, although the financial performance is unlikely to be pretty. The group, which has made a half-year loss in three of the past four years, normally makes its profits in the second half of the year, so investors will be paying close attention to its outlook for the full year and the Christmas trading period. She also will need to give the market some hope on John Lewis's contentious build-to-rent property ambitions and will confront partners' concerns about a potential change in its ownership structure.



Dame Sharon White will take centre stage with John Lewis's latest results

TOMORROW

Dowlais, the newly London-listed business that trades as GKN Automotive, is a top-tier supplier of components to the automotive industry. It has no operations in Britain, but is a serious player in the United States, China and continental Europe. According to Jefferies, it should unveil pre-tax profits of about £127 million on six-month sales of £2.79 billion in its maiden half-year as a separate entity after being carved out of Melrose. There will be much interest in what it has to say about its role within the complexities of the global motor sector's transition to low and zero-emission vehicles.

Interims Dowlais, Gym, Harworth, Regional Reit, Wickes
Finals Mattioli Woods
Trading update Associated British Foods

WEDNESDAY

The Office for National Statistics will release its latest monthly growth figures for July, providing a first glimpse of how the economy has performed at the start of the third quarter. Economists expect output to have contracted, with some estimates suggesting a 0.4 per cent drop between June and July because of unseasonably wet weather driving down consumption.

Survey data from businesses also points to an outright fall in growth, because private sector companies in the services and manufacturing sectors have complained of declining demand and orders. Monthly gross domestic product expanded by 0.5 per cent in June, when record temperatures helped to drive up households' appetite for spending on summer goods.



Samuel Tombs, at Pantheon Macroeconomics, the consultancy, thinks the economy will have contracted by 0.2 per cent in July, a moderate decline that will pick up in the rest of the third quarter. "We doubt the wet weather in July, when rainfall exceeded its 1980-to-2020 average, had a dampening impact on consumer services demand," he said.

Interims Burford Capital, Pharos Energy, Tullow Oil
Finals Redrow, Ricardo

THURSDAY

THG has been forced to fend off several challenges since the start of this year, including calls from an activist investor to sell its Myprotein nutrition business. Investors will be keen to see whether pressure on consumer spending and cost inflation have affected the online beauty company. It has warned already that revenue for the last financial year will be lower than expected. Analysts have forecast sales of £1 billion for the first six months of the year, down from £1.07 billion last year, but a narrowing in pre-tax losses of £87 million, better than the £108 million of the year before.

Shareholders in IG Group will be anxious to know whether there is any read-across from the warning last month by CMC Markets, the rival spread-betting group, about subdued market conditions. IG is reporting first-quarter numbers for the three months to August. In its last full year it notched up pre-tax profits of about £450 million, down from £477 million previously.

Finals Brooks Macdonald, Renishaw
Interims John Lewis Partnership, THG, Keystone Law, Oakley Capital, Spire Healthcare
Trading update IG Group

FRIDAY

No big company announcements are scheduled

School fee tax inquiry

Jessica Newman

St James's Place is investigating one of its partner practices for allegedly promoting a scheme that avoids tax on private school fees.

The FTSE 100 wealth manger, which has more than 2,500 partner practices operating under its umbrella, said it was looking into Apollo Private Wealth, which a month ago published a post on LinkedIn, the social network, advertising "setting up a tax-free efficient fund to pay private school fees". Within a brochure, Apollo lists strategies to minimise tax when paying school fees, including using £3,000 tax-free gifting allowances and "absolute or bare trusts to divert income".

Dan Neidle, founder of Tax Policy Associates, said: "It's … worrying to see a major private wealth adviser promote a tax-avoidance scheme that a newly qualified accountant would know can't possibly work."

A spokesman for St James's Place said: "SJP only endorses the use of schemes that comply fully with HMRC rules."


JAMES MANNING/PA

Zip-a-dee-doo-dah The inaugural London Landmarks Skyscraper Challenge at the Leadenhall Building, also known as the Cheesegrater, in the City of London, included participants taking a zipwire or abseiling 200 metres down the side of the building. The not-for-profit event was created by the pregnancy and baby loss charity Tommy's

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Fund management firms face call to appoint more women in key roles

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

Pressure is growing on fund management firms to appoint more women to run new funds in the wake of a report suggesting that the push towards gender equality in the sector has ground almost to a halt.

Baroness Morrissey, the former chairwoman of AJ Bell and a former chief executive of Newton Asset Management, called on such firms after the report found that only one in six newly launched funds was managed solely or jointly by a woman.

Women account for only 12.1 per cent of more than 18,000 money managers tracked worldwide by Citywire, barely changed from the 12 per cent recorded last year and up only slightly from 10.3 per cent in the eight years the study has been running.

Women also tend to be appointed to run smaller, niche funds, while the proportion of funds run solely by a woman has dropped to its lowest level since the study began.

Morrissey, 57, the founder of the 30% Club, which campaigns to get more women into senior positions in business, said: "If firms mean what they say about viewing this [gender progress] as an incredibly important topic, they should be giving twice as many new funds proportionately to female managers. It would still be a very modest percentage."


Baroness Morrissey urged firms to act over gender progress

Being appointed to run new funds is viewed as key because they are seen as the plum posts and can do well for personal careers as the firm's marketing muscle is put behind them.

Fund management is usually seen as one of the more enlightened areas of the City, where women are treated well and make strong career progress. However, the sexual harassment scandal at Odey Asset Management this year has dented that image.

Another problem is that firms tend to poach one another's star women rather than bringing on their own emerging female talent, according to Margaryta Kirakosian, Citywire's Alpha Female project editor. "The industry appears stuck in a vicious cycle, where firms are setting themselves ambitious targets on gender representation in portfolio management, but often fulfil them through external hires, rather than nurturing talent internally," she said.

The report also warned that a hardening of attitudes against working from home was making it hard for women to progress. BlackRock, the world's biggest asset manager, has requested staff go into the office four days out of five, up from three, while JP Morgan has required senior people to return to five days a week. "The impact of this on working mothers can be detrimental," the report said.

Britain came in the middle of the pack for the proportion of women fund managers, way behind Taiwan, Hong Kong, Spain and Italy but slightly ahead of the United States and well ahead of Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Citywire named Abrdn as the biggest hirer of women managers among large fund managers, with women accounting for 21 per cent of its fund managers, followed by HSBC, with 19 per cent, and Schroders, with 18 per cent. The report examined the managers of 28,500 funds worth £14 trillion in aggregate.

Picking winners 'needs curiosity and thought'

Case study

Sophie Earnshaw studied Blake and Shelley at university; now she looks for stock market winners in China, India and Brazil (Patrick Hosking writes).

Citywire named the Baillie Gifford fund manager as one of the top ten most consistent outperformers among 2,179 female managers studied globally. She credits the firm's enthusiasm for hiring arts graduates partly as explaining its relatively strong showing in hiring and promoting women. "We don't just hire economics graduates and finance-related graduates," Earnshaw, 37, right, said.

Her job includes co-managing the £330 million BG China Fund and working on more than £15 billion of other emerging markets investments.



About 35 per cent of BG's investment professionals are women, as are 35 per cent of senior executives and 25 per cent of the partners.

BG, probably best known for running Scottish Mortgage, the FTSE 100 investment trust, had been ahead of the pack in trying to retain more women, she said. Maternity/paternity leave is up to 52 weeks, with the first 26 on full pay. The firm also runs networking events under the "BShe" name, with Mary Earps, the England goalkeeper, a recent guest speaker.

She thinks girls are socially conditioned into certain career paths and the stereotypical image of parts of finance does not help. Earnshaw said fund management "is not yelling into a phone shouting 'buy' and 'sell'. It's about being curious and thinking deeply."

Paul Johnson

Persevering with the autumn statement just generates confusion



You may not have marked it in your diary yet, but the big news for us fiscal nerds is that we now know the date of this year's autumn statement (November 22, since you ask). I'm grateful to Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, for getting the date out there early. After the plethora of rather rushed fiscal events over recent years, it's nice to feel at least a semblance of calm and normality.

It's interesting, though, that we are getting an autumn statement and not a budget. Stated policy is that we should get budgets in the autumn and rather small non-events called spring statements in the spring. At least that's what Philip Hammond (remember him?) said was the plan back in November 2016 and, as far as I am aware, no subsequent chancellor has "unsaid" it.

Here's my response the day after that announcement: "No more autumn statements. Hurrah. If there has been any promise made by any chancellor I have been able to welcome more warmly I can't remember it … We have had far too much, far too bad, policy in budgets, autumn statements and pre-budget reports over the years. The temptations for chancellors to use their two days to make too many headline-grabbing announcements is great indeed." Naive fool that I am.

It's been quite the guessing game since then. By my count, we've had three autumn budgets, four spring budgets, two autumn spending reviews, three spring statements, one autumn statement, one (disastrous) mini-budget and one summer economic update since then. It's quite possible I've miscounted somewhere along the line.

As a purveyor of fiscal and pre-budget analysis, this is frustrating, but the point made in my over-excitement in the autumn of 2016 was a serious one. No other country feels the need for two big fiscal events every year. They have become an engine for an over-proliferation of measures, generating instability and confusion.

The time and energy spent on these events would be better-focused on setting longer-term strategies, consulting on reforms and improving the policymaking process. Chancellors do too much, too quickly and the more fiscal events we have, the more they are likely to do, the less well-thought-out their measures are likely to be and the greater the chances they will regret something and perform an embarrassing U-turn.

This time, with an election due within a year or so, you can see the temptation to take two opportunities to grab the limelight, perhaps with the big announcements to come in the spring so that they are fresher in our minds when we go to the polls. Whether that will do those making said announcements any good is another question entirely.

The election will be at the forefront of Hunt's mind. He has been under pressure from some of his backbenchers to offer pre-election giveaways in the form of tax cuts. Pre-election tax cuts have worked before: those of us of a certain vintage might recall Norman Lamont's pre-election budget in 1992. It was a nice juicy giveaway and it helped the Conservatives to win that year's election. But we are more likely to remember the very big, very unpopular tax rises he had to announce after that election. As he put it, his pre-election budget was his best politically and worst economically, while his post-election budget was his best economically and worst politically. Therein lies the rub.



Norman Lamont won an election with his budget

Those pressing the case for tax cuts may feel that their case has been bolstered by the public finances being stronger than expected over this year. Hunt has been right to push back against such siren calls.

Nothing he conceivably can do will stop this being a parliament in which taxes have risen, a lot. And the room for tax cuts from here depends not so much on what is happening to the public finances right now but rather what is likely to happen to them over the next few years.

They are not going to look healthy. Debt will remain at its highest level in generations, while high interest rates mean servicing that debt has become far more expensive than it was only a couple of years ago. And here's an apparent paradox. The statistical upgrade to national income with which the Office for National Statistics has surprised us makes it less likely that the OBR will be presenting the chancellor with improved forecasts.

This year's public finances look better than expected in part because tax revenues have been coming in faster than anticipated. Some of that is to do with higher inflation, which will hurt the public finances later on, but some of it looked unexplained, given what we thought we knew about economic growth. That might have prompted forecasters at the OBR to decide that our economy was more tax-rich than they had thought and hence to increase their view of future revenues. Now that we can explain more of the revenue growth, they are less likely to do that. The statisticians' apparent largesse may turn out to make the chancellor's headache worse, not better.

The bigger picture is that statistical revisions or no, the chancellor will have one almighty fiscal headache. Even with some pretty fancy footwork — implausibly tight spending plans, phantom increases in fuel duties, supposedly temporary tax cuts — he was barely on course to stabilise debt back in March.

Meanwhile, spending commitments are piling up. Take only one, the NHS workforce strategy (there are many, many more). Published in the summer to widespread acclaim, by itself it implies spending increases in the order of 2 per cent of national income per year within little more than a decade. Given our present fiscal position, it is hard to see how anyone can simultaneously believe that we should do this and that we should cut taxes.

Paul Johnson is director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Follow him on @PJTheEconomist

Simon French

The economy is healthier than we thought, but that brings new problems

Two weeks ago, the estimated size of the economy jumped by about 1.7 per cent, equivalent to about £38 billion a year. This wasn't a sudden surge in activity over the summer months, but rather a reassessment by the Office for National Statistics of how rapidly the economy had recovered after the pandemic, particularly during 2021.

This is good news, plain and simple. It helps to explain a fast recovery in tax revenues that had been out of line with tepid economic growth. It also tells a more encouraging picture on productivity, given the rebound in employment since the end of the furlough scheme.

Nevertheless, there has been a gnashing of teeth at the Treasury, in the City and among business leaders. The figures that had framed economic commentary over the past two years — which suggested the economy had not recovered its pre-Covid size and had endured the slowest economic recovery in the G7 — were eviscerated at the stroke of a statistician's pen. Those pens, largely in the south Wales headquarters of the ONS, have attracted criticism that, in turn, has triggered a review into how such a large data revision came about.

'High-quality data takes longer to collate and curate'

First, the case for the defence. It is hard to overstate the scale of flux in economic activity during the pandemic and the subsequent recovery. Measuring the value of economic activity is difficult in normal times, and that period was far from normal. That large revisions have emerged should not be overly surprising as high-quality data takes longer to collate and curate.

Second, as an economist who has had to engage with the ONS for more than two decades, I can reflect that the quality and breadth of its statistics has grown impressively over that period as it moved from an analogue to a digital organisation.

Third, revisions to the way in which statistical organisations worldwide calculate the size of an economy are under regular review and, to date, only the United States and Britain have embraced the new methodology that drove the UK's revision. It remains to be seen what European statistical agencies find as they embrace a similar process.

Yet this defence must be tempered with justifiable criticism. In recent years the ONS has begun to comment on its statistical releases. This commentary on wages, working-age inactivity, poverty, crime and the size of the economy inevitably frames the initial reaction by the media, investors, households and businesses. That leaves the organisation open to criticism if and when large revisions come along. Investment decisions have been shaped by its commentary, despite there being a world-class economist consultancy industry in Britain able to interpret the data without the ONS doing it. Devoting time and resources to duplicating this work is starkly inefficient.

Furthermore, what was the ONS doing pushing out these revisions in a rather obscure data release on the last Friday of the school holidays? This was arguably the most consequential data release for the economy this year. It deserved to lead every business and economics news report as a counterweight to two years of rather different economic interpretation. The imbalance between the appetite for good economic news and bad economic news is of considerable frustration to many. The ONS does not need to fuel that.

Readers may ask: does this matter? It would be difficult to argue that materially different decisions on tax, spending or interest rates would have been made had the data been more accurate in recent years. It also has limited impact now on the decisions the government will face in its autumn statement or by the Bank of England this month. Yet this data has framed perceptions, especially internationally, of the British economy as something of the sick man of Europe and the developed world. This has made the cost of UK debt, the capital raised by its public and private companies and the mortgages paid by households more expensive. Those are real and costly implications of underestimating the size of the nation's economy.

Simon French is chief economist at Panmure Gordon investment bank

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AstraZeneca's drugs chief cures his work-life balance

Alex Ralph

The pandemic changed lives for millions of people in myriad ways and now it is about to change the life of one of those at the centre of efforts to fight back against Covid.

Sir Mene Pangalos is preparing to head for the exit at AstraZeneca after almost 14 years of helping it to become Britain's most valuable public company and one of the world's biggest pharmaceuticals groups.

Pangalos has been one of the most senior executives during the turnaround of the Anglo-Swedish group's drugs pipeline, overseeing the creation of a £1.1 billion global research and development centre in Cambridge and the "exhausting" response to Covid, which turned AstraZeneca, the maker of a prominent vaccine, into a household name. He calls it a "remarkable" transformation that exceeded expectations.

Nevertheless, Astra's executive vice-president, biopharmaceuticals research and development, is preparing to leave. No matter that The Mail on Sunday newspaper yesterday reported that Sir Pascal Soriot, 64, the company's chief executive since 2012, was considering leaving as soon as next year — a company spokesman declined to comment — he said he did not covet the top job. Soriot, it has to be noted, has shown no signs of retiring.

Pangalos, 56, also rejected the idea that his own departure pointed to wider succession planning at the top of AstraZeneca: "Pascal has got a lot of years ahead of him and he works as hard and as intensely as he did when I first met him in 2012."

For his part, Pangalos said he had made the "emotional and difficult" decision to spend more time with his wife and two teenage girls, aged 13 and 15, in Cambridge, with work commitments having forced him to miss birthdays, sports days and school plays, as well as opportunities to visit his elderly mother in Greece. "With the pandemic, I was at home, I was sleeping in my bed, I was seeing my kids and my wife every day. And I absolutely loved it and I didn't want to go back. And so that flipped a switch for me a little bit in terms of what's the most important thing."

Pangalos was a key figure in the national response to the pandemic as both an adviser to the government's vaccine taskforce and to AstraZeneca's development of Vaxzevria, the Covid vaccine, in partnership with the University of Oxford. "I'd be on calls with Pascal or politicians and I'd be doing it from the garden table. But more than anything I coped because I had my wife and kids there and I was seeing the impact that we were having on them. And that kept me going."

The decision to work in partnership with the university on a non-profit basis had led to the delivery of three billion doses worldwide in just over a year, saving an estimated six million lives, Pangalos said. "That's a good thing to have done for the world." However, AstraZeneca, which had no expertise in vaccines before the pandemic, also became embroiled in an extraordinary legal battle with the European Commission over supply delays, battled unprecedented criticism from American regulators over the presentation of clinical data and is now facing product liability lawsuits in the High Court.

Nevertheless, Pangalos believes that the response to the pandemic has strengthened AstraZeneca's reputation worldwide, from America to Greece, where he holidays with his family on the island of Chios in the eastern Aegean. "When I go to Greece, I genuinely get 'thank you for all the stuff that you did' from all levels of the population."

Pangalos, who was born in London and who studied at Imperial College London and University College London, was knighted in the 2020 new year honours for services to science.

Covid "was probably one of the most invigorating, challenging [of times], but also rewarding in terms of the impact



Sir Mene Pangalos, the executive vice-

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London Capital & Finance creditors suffer fresh blow

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The administrators of London Capital & Finance have warned that creditors of the scandal-hit minibonds company could recover as little as 10 per cent of what they are owed.

It marks a significant reduction in the likely returns from London Capital & Finance, which collapsed four years ago in a £238 million debacle.

Administrators at Evelyn Partners had forecast previously that creditors would get at least 25 per cent of their money back, before trimming that to 20 per cent. In their latest report at Companies House, they have warned that "the total return to the secured creditors will be in the range of 10 per cent to 18 per cent".

Most of the money recovered will be paid to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, the financial industry's lifeboat fund, which became London Capital & Finance's main creditor after paying out about £172 million in redress to bondholders that lost money in the company's collapse. About £58 million of that was distributed under the FSCS's own compensation rules and a further £114 million was paid under a special government scheme.

London Capital & Finance sold toxic, high-risk minibonds to about 14,000 small investors, who faced heavy losses when the business imploded in January 2019. Its collapse caused an uproar and is the subject of an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

A compensation scheme spokesman said: "In its capacity as a major creditor of London Capital & Finance, FSCS is continuing to liaise closely with the administrators."

CHRIS RADBURN FOR THE TIMES



president, biopharmaceuticals R&D, at AstraZeneca is preparing to leave the company after a transformational period

that you're having. It's the first time I've had children write to me saying, 'I want to be a scientist.' For the first time my kids really understood what I did. And actually they were proud of me."

He is also "incredibly proud" as AstraZeneca continued to develop new medicines for its core business. "At the same time, we did five NMEs [new molecular entities] that year. So the vaccine and the antibody [Evusheld] were like our night job and the regular pipeline was our day job. And everyone forgets about the day job."

The launches of a series of drugs, particularly blockbuster cancer treatments, have transformed AstraZeneca's balance sheet, share price and prospects. Group sales have surged by about 73 per cent to $44.4 billion over the past decade and its share price has hit new highs, rising from about £32 to more than £106, giving it a market capitalisation of £168 billion.

The company has overtaken GSK, previously Britain's biggest Big Pharma group, valued at £57 billion, and Pfizer, the American competitor whose highly contentious £69 billion takeover bid for AstraZeneca was rebuffed in 2014.

Pangalos was opposed to a Pfizer takeover of AstraZeneca, seeing "those big acquisitions" as "highly disruptive". Pfizer, he said, "was also a very US-centric company [with] a history of closing sites down. It was still the beginning of our journey of transformation and I wanted to see it through."

One of Astra's cultural "big shifts" was to be more "externally focused", not only with the academic community but also with biotechnology companies and industry peers. "The sporting analogy is that we were setting personal bests, but there were no world records because all the comparisons were internal."

Thus AstraZeneca made the difficult decision to relocate from Cheshire to the Cambridge biomedical campus alongside Cancer Research UK, the Royal Papworth Hospital and the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology. "It's this symbiotic relationship with biotech, with academia, with the best science around."

The company's new Discovery Centre, or Disc, as it has been dubbed because of its structure, at 1 Francis Crick Avenue, will host about 2,350 research scientists. The building, which includes sixteen laboratories, a glass façade equal in size to three football pitches, an auditorium and a "saw-tooth" roof designed to minimise energy use, was unveiled in November 2021 with a visit from the Prince of Wales and Kwasi Kwarteng, the business secretary at that time.

Project Laureate has faced spiralling costs from an initial investment forecast of £330 million and repeated delays from its 2016 completion date. It suffered an embarrassing setback shortly before last Christmas when an electrical fault caused a damaging fire, further setting back its full opening.

Pangalos said the "short-term cost doesn't matter" as the building was a "legacy" and would be important to the



AstraZeneca's new science hub in Cambridge is a significant advance

future of research and development "in the same way the Crick [Francis Crick Institute] is important to the UK".

Pangalos is set to leave AstraZeneca early next year, once the handover to Sharon Barr, at present the head of research and product development at Alexion, AstraZeneca's rare disease subsidiary, is complete.

"It's actually perfect timing. I'll have completed my final thing, which is getting this building fully operational. And then I'll be able to just come and have coffee here."

After taking a "really good amount" of time off, Pangalos, who is also on the boards of The Judge Business School, Cambridge University, and the Francis Crick Institute, plans to explore work with institutions, venture capital or advisory boards to "help to guide and coach some of the next generation of scientists".

However, he emphasises that it is "most important to do it at a pace that enables me to spend more time with my family, see my mum in Greece and managing my work life balance a little bit better".

Big retailers call on Hunt to freeze business rates

James Hurley

Retail bosses have written to the chancellor calling for a freeze in business rates in the autumn statement to avoid the industry being charged hundreds of millions of pounds in additional tax.

In a letter signed by 44 big retailers, Jeremy Hunt was told that more than £400 million would be added to rates bills if the "multiplier" used to calculate the commercial property tax was applied. "An increase to costs at this level could lead to upwards pressure on prices, just as shop price inflation has begun to ease," the retailers said. The tax is linked to September's inflation figure, which will be published before the statement on November 22.

Signatories include Aldi, Asda, Boots, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Ikea, Marks & Spencer, Lidl and Currys. The British Retail Consortium, which helped to coordinate the letter, said that seven in ten of its members were "very concerned" at the prospect of a rise.

Retailers warned about the impact on investment and jobs as well as prices.

Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the consortium, said: "With shop prices inflation having eased for three consecutive months, it is vital that the government does not undermine this progress. A £400 million rates rise will also cost jobs, harm the economy and damage the vibrancy of our town and city centres."

Business rates, after reliefs, typically raise £25 billion in England each year and are a crucial source of funding for local government. The retail industry pays more than £7 billion a year. The tax is widely seen as outmoded as it costs more for those in valuable town centre locations, benefiting online retailers with out-of-town warehouses and adding to cost and competitive pressures on physical rivals. However, the government has noted that revenue raised from rates has fallen as a percentage of GDP over the past 20 years.

Craig Beaumont, chief of external affairs at the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "The issue is broader than big retailers avoiding an inflationary bill next April. At the same time, £2 billion of relief focused at [small and medium-sized enterprises] in retail, hospitality and leisure to reduce their bills by 75 per cent is scheduled to end."

Figma to double office room and staff

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

Figma has become the latest American technology company to say it is increasing its office space in London.

The design software company's planned expansion would allow it to double its headcount to more than 250 people. It employs 130 staff in London, its European headquarters and largest hub outside the United States, after opening there with 12 people in 2020.

Its new office in Shoreditch, east London, will be almost 15,000 sq ft, double the size of its previous site in Soho. Eighty per cent of the company's customers are outside America.

The business shot to public attention last year when Adobe, the software group, agreed to buy it for $20 billion. The deal, announced in September, is being scrutinised by competition watchdogs worldwide, including in Britain. It was the second big technology acquisition in a year to be reviewed by the Competition and Markets Authority, after the saga of Microsoft's takeover of Activision Blizzard, which the regulator originally blocked. It has reopened its inquiry after Microsoft resolved to make changes to its structure.

Industry insiders have suggested that the Microsoft inquiry indicates the authority is hostile to such big American technology transactions and the progress of the Figma-Adobe inquiry is being watched closely.

The merger is designed to bolster Adobe's suite of digital tools as millions of workers continue to operate remotely. It bought Workfront, the management platform, for $1.5 billion in 2020 and acquired Frame.io, a video platform, for $1.3 billion in 2021.

The authority referred the Figma deal for an in-depth investigation in July, saying that the two businesses overlapped in key markets and that "this important rivalry could be lost if the deal goes ahead".

Industry insiders reject the regulator's view, saying that the authority's theories of harm reflect a misunderstanding of the market for product design and development. They argue that Figma and Adobe's tools are built for different purposes and to serve different audiences.

Adobe, which was founded in 1982, specialises in software, with its services including Photoshop, the photo and design software. The group, which is based in San Jose, California, has a global workforce of 28,000 staff, a market value of $257 billion and is listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange.

Figma, which helps people to develop digital applications to collaborate as they build, was set up a decade ago by Dylan Field and Evan Wallace, two software engineers, who met while studying at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Picture brightens for space start-up with new funding

Max Kendix

A British satellite technology start-up has raised $50 million as it pledges to use artificial intelligence to broaden access to data gathered from space.

Open Cosmos has secured backing from several venture capital companies, as well as frolm Taavet Hinrikus, 42, the Estonian co-founder of Wise, the listed money transfer app.

Rafel Jorda Siquier, 34, the founder and chief executive of Open Cosmos, said: "The amount of things that can be done with satellites that take pictures of Earth is tremendous and we are just scratching the surface."

Part of the round is dedicated to "Data Cosmos", a platform that stores and analyses all the data gathered from space for use by other start-ups. "With the latest technologies around machine learning and analytics, the best start-ups in the UK can plug into this data and develop more bespoke and detailed solutions for use in natural resources, energy and climate," Siquier said.

Early investment in space technology rose by about 50 per cent last year, with £635 million invested in British-based space companies through 34 identified deals, according to data from PwC and Seraphim Space, an investor.

Open Comos, which is based in Harwell, Oxfordshire, is one of the few UK companies to offer "end-to-end" management on satellites, incorporating design, building and operation of the crafts. The company previously had a $7 million investment round in 2017, the same year it launched its first satellite from the International Space Station. It now boasts 65 employees and has made a profit since 2021.

Rotherham opens door to future of manufacturing

THE TIMES
ENTERPRISE NETWORK
INDUSTRIAL

Cutting-edge technology lies at the heart of one entrepreneur's vision of what a factory can be, reports **Richard Tyler**

When a company invites a journalist to visit its "factory for the future", you might assume it has something to show off. That is not how Chris Rea thinks. His new 175,000 sq ft factory at the Rotherham-based Aesseal is virtually empty. The exciting bit, for him, is what the space represents.

"What we've got here is a window to the world of modern manufacturing. It's not dirty, it's not smoke-filled rooms. I wanted the workplace for our people to be beautiful and I wanted it to be a statement, a lighthouse project, in what is supposedly the 221st worst place to live and work."

Aesseal's managing director and majority owner is referring to a survey by Rightmove, the property website, which resulted in the local newspaper headline: "Rotherham ranked unhappiest place to live in England." An almost empty factory might not immediately counter that impression or be the most promising image for Britain's manufacturing prospects, but Rea is doing what he has done since taking control of the company in 1979: he is planning ahead.

He has ordered 32 robots costing £13.1 million, seven of which, each costing more than £1 million, will be housed in his factory for the future with space for another six. One robotic cell serving two machine tools and nicknamed Bumpty the Bot is already in place. Three other machine tool cells — "mini-factories" — sit alongside it. A fourth, a large machine that cuts metal into components across nine axes using its belt of 240 tools, is about to be installed.

"We didn't need to make such a big investment. It is Rea's folly, my last hurrah, my own lifetime achievement award to myself. It is crass stupidity or it's a totally appropriate head office investment for what one day is going to be the world's leading reliability business."

Aesseal designs and manufactures mechanical seals, bearing protectors and other industrial components for customers worldwide. It sits within the wider AES Engineering group that includes a fast-growing condition monitoring consultancy called AVT Reliability, based in Warrington. The mini-conglomerate has 72 businesses operating in 42 countries and employs 1,934 people.

About 40 per cent of the business is owned by 3i, the private equity group. It first invested in 1996, making the company an outlier in its portfolio, given that its typical investment time frame is three to five years. A spokesman said that AES Engineering was "one of our longest-held investments and we are fully supportive of the company's investment plans".

"If you had come here seven years ago this would have been empty," said Rea, 69, walking past a large room in the original factory building full of machines making components for the oil and gas and pharmaceuticals industries. "So when you see something empty, you have to understand that sometimes visions turn into reality."

In the next room, 26 AutoStore robots have arrived to create an automated order-picking system that will integrate with the company's management software, bought from SAP, of Germany. The robots are similar to the ones that dash around the enormous distribution sheds of Ocado, the online grocery and retail technology group. "What it means is the same number of people are



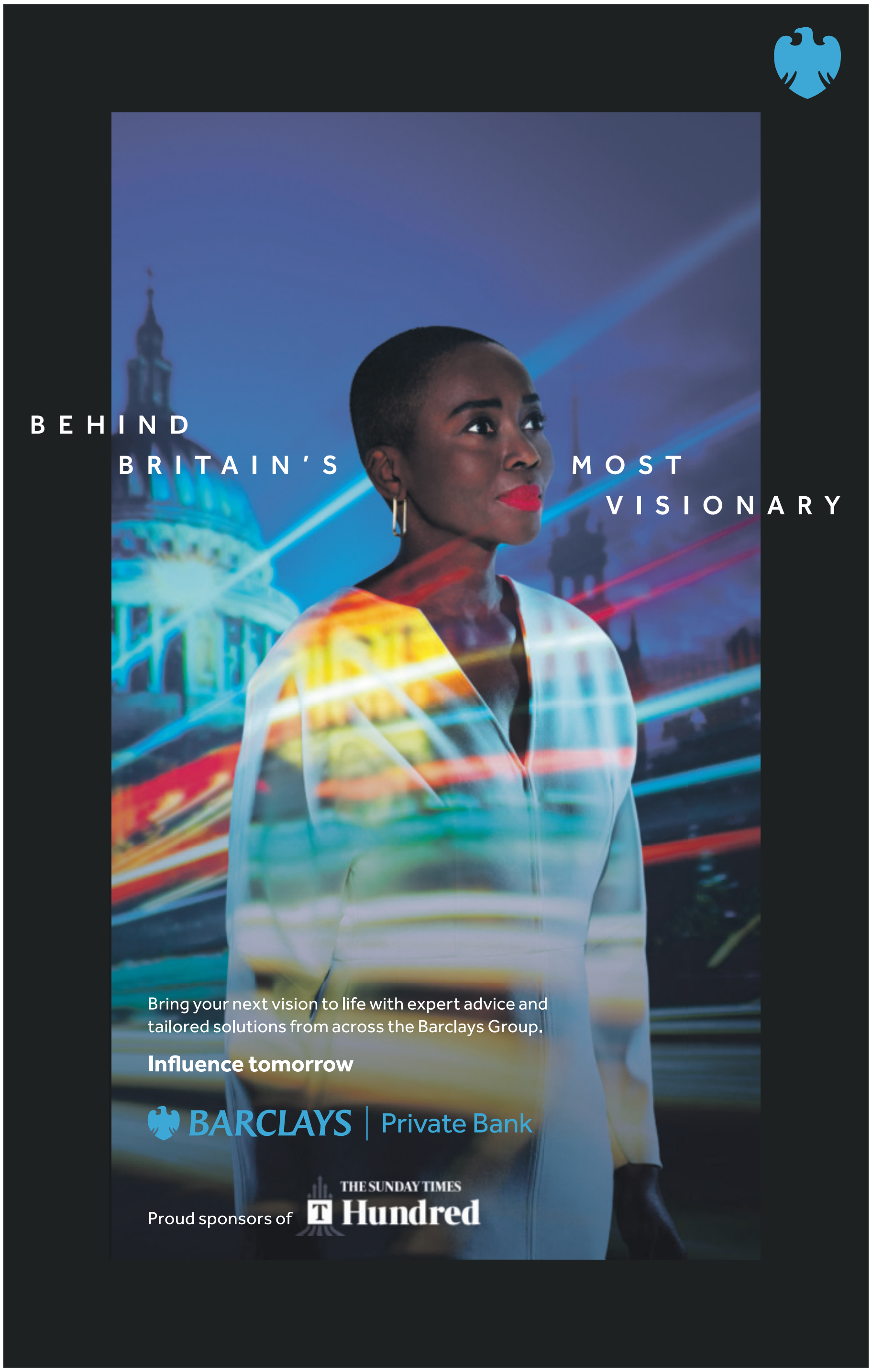
Chris Rea, managing director of Aesseal,

getting twice as many parts out the door. Automation."

In addition to the factory, Rea has built the Treewalk, a nature reserve that runs around the edge of the ten-acre factory site and attracts local schoolchildren, as well as bees. Rea has long known that too few young people want to work in factories, so has been doing something about it. The Treewalk is one tactic. Automation, smart working conditions, decent hours and slick IT systems that knit the factory's processes together are others.

"Almost from the day this business started we have been trying to stop people doing dull, boring, mundane, monotonous, low value-adding tasks. We've taken those sorts of jobs that you would otherwise have shipped to, say, China and we've said, 'No, we'll make an investment in equipment so we can pay people an appropriate level of money.'

"We're not concentrating on what we can get out of their labour. We're concentrating on how the integration of technology under people can allow us to be productive. We've taken the view of high capital investment and high-paid labour,



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DOMINIC LIPINSKI FOR THE TIMES



high hopes and big ambitions for his robotic production line at the company's new factory facility in Rotherham, South Yorkshire

rather than low capital investment and low-paid labour."

That is not to say that Rea is not fighting hard to attract more people: 233 apprentices have passed through the company's doors in the past five years, undergoing training costing £5.4 million.

One young engineer on the payroll is Lewis Hardy, 23, who graduated from Hull University and manages Bumpty the Bot. Hardy was attracted to work here by the investment in cutting-edge kit. He has spent a year getting to grips with Bumpty, which has proved a trickier addition than had been hoped.

On a tour of the site, the topics under discussion bounce around relentlessly, Rea often starting one before he has finished the last. Investment in generative AI to mine its internal databases to better answer customer queries morphs into energy-efficient transformers to save money and an automated order quotation system called Eve (costing £3.4 million to develop). This week the businessman is adding another 1,200 solar panels to the factory roof, taking the total to 3,300.

A driven individual, he seems unlikely to be the type to suffer fools gladly. "I'm better when I know people". And he is clearly proud of his company. "I like to pursue excellence."

Aesseal is a prominent business in South Yorkshire, not least for its sponsorship of Rotherham United's 12,000-capacity Aesseal New York football stadium, opened in 2012. The group shrugged off the disruption from the pandemic and will announce record results this year. "In 2019, we did £178 million sales; in the 12 months to June, we did £255 million; we expect to do £265 million to £270 million this full year." Profits before interest, tax and other charges of £65 million are not too shabby, either.

Rea started investing in automation technology in earnest ten years ago and is not optimistic about the prospects of other British-based manufacturers that have begun doing so only recently. "You just won't be able to manufacture in a country where you pay people a living wage. You won't be able to engineer, do innovation, do development." That is a not a prospect that seems likely for Aesseal.

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Heart scare taught me the benefits of becoming a 'corporate athlete'

Sokratis Papafloratos



It was such a strange feeling. My wife and I had returned home from dinner with friends when I started to experience a sensation in my chest that I had never felt before. It was like butterflies in the stomach, but it was in my heart.

The electrocardiogram on my smartwatch read: "High heart rate. Atrial fibrillation." Despite everything, I felt calm. Thirty minutes later I was in A&E. My heart eventually settled down after four hours, with the help of a beta blocker. It turns out that atrial fibrillation is a very common condition. My form of it, paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, can occur at random. Triggers can range from stress and insomnia to recovering from a cold or having a drink.

This all happened last October and I was surprised how I could be experiencing something like that at 43 years of age. This should not have happened to me, especially after the transformation I had gone through.

Back in 2021 I was a bit of a mess. My weight was at an all-time high (I had a body mass index of 27.7, placing me at the higher end of the "overweight" spectrum). My one-year-old daughter was about to undergo a rare gene therapy for a retinal disease that had rendered her blind at birth. Numan, the men's health company I had founded, was at full throttle and we were in the middle of trying to raise our latest round of venture capital funding. Looking after myself was not a priority and it was showing. I was overweight, overstressed, sleeping poorly and feeling bad.

> "I started to experience a sensation in my chest. It was like butterflies in the stomach

After my daughter's successful surgery and closing our $40 million funding round, I resolved to get my act together. I set a goal of climbing Mont Blanc and made health my top priority. One year later I was 10kg lighter, stronger and I felt younger. I thought I had it all figured out, but getting hit after all that was a wake-up call.

I upped my game. I practically gave up alcohol, went back to meditating, added breathwork to my routine and worked with a training team that specialises in heart health. I also got serious about tracking my health stats, which keeps me focused and motivated. Now I know my VO Max (49.4), the maximum amount of oxygen that my body can use during exercise; my resting heart rate (49); average heart rate variability (39), the fluctuation in the time intervals between my heartbeats; and there are a host of other metrics I am working to improve. I stay active on a daily basis and I have doubled the amount of vigorous exercise I do per week, which includes strength training, cardiovascular-focused exercise and sport. A couple of years ago I would have found this impossible, but now it has become a routine. I am pleased to say I have not had any more episodes of atrial fibrillation in the past few months and, given the work and monitoring I am doing, I am not expecting any more in the future.

So why am I doing all this? It's simple: I am focusing on my health because I want to be performing well and enjoying myself as a business leader, husband, parent and person.

The atrial fibrillation episode was a catalyst, but I had already started to change my mindset concerning health and to see myself as a "corporate athlete". This idea posits that fit chief executives have greater endurance and are better able to make decisions, lead teams and handle high-pressure environments. It is a simple idea, but I am always surprised by how few senior business leaders understand the level of investment they need to put into their health. How many must be suffering as a result? I used to feel guilty taking time away from my business and family, but today I see it as an investment, one of the only ones you make as a chief executive that is guaranteed to pay off.

Over the next year I am working on a comprehensive health plan that will address different aspects of my health, including my heart health, body composition, hormonal health, sleep, cognitive function and predisposition to individual cancers. My aim is to be at my best now and to radically change the trajectory of my future health. This is not an eccentric, Silicon Valley-style project. Yes, people like Bryan Johnson are making headlines with their expensive regimes, but you don't need to break the bank to be healthy. You do need time, effort and support from the people around you.

In the coming months, I will be sharing my experiences in a series of articles, diving into what I learn and the results I am seeing. I hope my story inspires other business leaders — particularly men, who are well known for their failure to act when it comes to medical issues — to make their health, and the health of their teams, a priority, too.

Sokratis Papafloratos is a serial entrepreneur and founder and chief executive of Numan, a men's health company

Business Equity prices

Automobiles & parts

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2,664.29	Aston Martin Lag	335	- 10¾	...	-2.0

Banking & finance

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
3,007.33	**Abrdn‡**	156½	- 8¼	...	3.4
8.62	Acuity RM♦	7⅛	- ⅜	...	...
7,159.94	**Admiral‡**	2358	- 72	...	12.0
7.36	ADVFN♦	16	- 2½	...	2.8
1,199.18	AJ Bell	291	+ 3¾	...	27.2
54,554.18	Aon Corpn	26891⅝	+ 113¼	...	65.6
154.86	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	950	- 10	...	21.0
2.92	Argo Group♦	7½	...	...	3.4
1,343.52	Ashmore	188½	- 5½	...	6.4
38,359.63	Aus New Z	1276⅜	- 20⅜	...	9.9
10,110.08	**Aviva‡**	369⅛	- 5¾	...	48.5
47,500.47	Banco Santander	293½	- 9	...	7.0
1,558.80	Bank of Georgia	3395	- 70	...	10.5
22,772.28	**Barclays‡**	148⅛	- ¾	...	3.6
5.74	Blue Star Capital♦	...	...	...	2.3
132.97	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	357	- 8	...	9.8
7.97	Braveheart Inv♦	12½	+ ¼	...	0.3
1,564.20	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
1,534.39	Bridgepoint‡	191	+ 16⅞	...	11.9
16.44	Cenkos Secs♦	29	+ 2	...	5.9
403.58	Chesnara	268	- 1	...	14.8
11.94	City of Lon Gp♦	10	- 14	...	-0.6
195.62	City Lon Inv Gp	386	- 12	...	9.0
1,234.55	Close Bros	820½	- 1½	...	6.1
287.09	CMC Markets	102½	- 5⅛	...	3.1
9,991.06	Commerzbk	797¾	- 69	...	40.8
16,899.99	Deutsche Bk	828¼	- 37	...	9.7
2,380.19	Direct Line Ins	181½	+ 22⅝	...	7.5
356.56	EFG-Hermes Hldg	48¾	...	...	3.1
47.06	EPE Special Opps♦	157½	+ 5	...	8.8
395.50	FBD	1111¼	...	...	4.9
7.68	Fiske♦	65	...	...	11.5
73.61	Frenkel Topping♦	57½	- ½	...	33.4
433.90	Georgia Capital	990	+ 13	...	2.7
407.62	Gresham House♦	1065	+ 5	...	42.7
180.35	H&T Group♦‡	410	+ 7	...	13.1
56.40	Hansard Global	41	- ⅞	...	14.1
3,507.11	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	739⅜	- 26½	...	13.1
98.04	Helios Under♦	127½	...	...	...
114,781.87	**HSBC‡**	584⅜	- 3⅞	...	12.7
2,635.83	IG Group	658	- 15½	...	6.7
694.81	Impax♦	524	+ 3	...	17.2
3,870.96	Intermed Capital	1332	- 21	...	7.6
268.96	IPF‡	120	- ½	...	6.7
2,465.50	International Public P'ship	129	- 1	...	16.5
2,996.60	Investec	464⅜	- 3	...	11.6
15.99	Investment Co	335	...	...	12.0
599.34	IP Group	57¾	- ¼	...	2.1
46.97	Jarvis Securities♦‡	105	- 9	...	7.5
509.58	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	93½	- 5	...	3.4
779.03	Just Group‡	75	...	...	...
1,403.06	Lancashire Holdings‡	575	- 1	...	...
12,949.27	**Legal & Gen‡**	216½	- 2	...	6.6
1,438.66	Liberty Group	502⅝	-50034⅜	...	...
401.63	Liontrust	618½	- 34½	...	7.7
60.35	Livermore Invs♦	36½	...	...	2.3
26,267.75	**Lloyds Banking Group‡**	41¼	- ¾	...	5.7
15.78	LMS Capital‡	19½	...	...	8.5
45,510.63	**Lond Stk Ex Gp‡**	8264	+ 88	...	84.5
4,571.34	**M&G**	193½	+ 2¾	...	60.5
2,470.52	Man‡	205⅞	- 5¼	...	8.2
25.41	Manx Fin♦	22	+ 1	...	11.1
1.80	Marechale Cap♦	1⅝	...	...	0.8
77,209.66	Marsh McLn	15630⅞	- 48¾	...	32.5
312.70	Mattioli Woods♦	605	+ 15	...	...
15.35	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ 1	...	3.5
176.13	Metro Bank	102	- ¾	...	-0.7
46,011.94	Nat Aust Bk	1466¾	- 15¾	...	14.5
19,957.31	**NatWest‡**	224	- 9⅛	...	8.8
367.96	Numis♦	334½	+ ½	...	6.8
1,291.43	Onesavings Bank‡	324¾	- 17⅛	...	4.3
409.84	PayPoint‡	564	+ 10	...	17.6
3.17	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
5,128.90	**Phoenix**	512⅛	- 8⅛	...	-5.9
24,685.33	**Prudential‡**	896½	- 73⅛	...	14.5
15.05	Quantum Blockchain♦	1¼	...	...	-7.1
1,234.21	Quilter‡	87⅞	+ 3⅜	...	62.7
199.62	Randall & Quilter♦	53⅜	- 2½	...	79.5
1,085.98	Rathbone Grp	1712	- 24	...	13.2
4.85	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	1.8
49.32	Rockwood Strategic	1835	- 25	...	2.6
269.75	S & U	2220	- 40	...	10.4
3.65	Sancus Lending Grp♦	⅝	...	...	-0.2
200.29	Schroder REIT	40⅞	- ¼	...	4.3
6,501.60	**Schroders‡**	403¼	- 9	...	1.8
4,658.62	**St James Place‡**	849⅛	- 35⅛	...	16.1
19,486.38	**Stand Chart‡**	705½	- 14	...	15.8
3.79	Starvest♦	6½	- ½	...	-1.0
35.64	STM Group♦‡	60	+ 10	...	23.1
22,693.69	Sun Life Can	3866⅜	- 50½	...	9.8
32.22	Tavistock Inv♦	5¾	...	...	0.9
1,513.60	TBC Bank Group‡	2745	- 80	...	8.0
17.54	Tern♦	4½	...	...	3.3
85.37	Thames Ventures VCT‡	48	...	...	6.4
23.59	Time Finance♦	25½	- ¾	...	15.5
300.08	Vanquis‡	117	+ 10½	...	2.1
26.31	Volvere♦	1125	- 30	...	...
16.52	WH Ireland♦	7	...	...	3.9
9.79	Walker Crips Grp	23	...	...	65.7
59,602.01	Wells Fargo	3269⅜	- 66⅜	...	8.9
38,034.71	Westpac	1083⅞	- 39⅞	...	14.6
9.41	Worsley Investors Ltd	27⅞	...	...	87.1
54,026.03	Zurich Fincl	36914⅛	- 404⅛	...	14.4

Investment companies

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Forecast Yld%	P/E
19,402.99	**3I Group**	1993½	- 5½	...	8.9
2,799.33	3i Infrastructure	303½	- ½	...	-9.5
1,027.70	Aberforth Smlr	1216	- 4	...	-13.9
251.26	abrdnDivInc&Grwth	83⅜	- ½	...	-26.9
2,979.93	Alliance	1048	- 2	...	-6.1
407.07	Asia Dragon Tr	358	- 1	...	-16.0
4.21	Athelney Trust	195	...	...	-7.9
917.73	AVI Global Trust	198	...	...	-10.8
132.71	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	214	- 6	...	-12.5
305.86	BaillieGifford Eu Gr	85⅜	- 2½	...	-13.5
675.53	Baillie Gifford JpnTr	726	- 15	...	-7.9
420.35	Baillie Gifford SN	134⅜	- ½	...	-12.3
235.50	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	156¾	- 2⅛	...	-13.5
496.70	Bal Comm Prop	70¾	+ 1¾	...	-39.9
1,217.34	Bankers Inv Trst	97⅞	+ ⅜	...	-12.9
1,311.84	BH Macro	351	+ 2	...	-12.0
289.61	Biotech Growth	795	- 7	...	-7.5
156.72	BlckRck Com Inc	117	+ 2	...	-11.5
269.79	BlckRck Fro Inv	142½	- 2½	...	-9.0
531.06	BlckRck Grt Euro	526	- 1	...	-5.4
37.68	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	181½	- 1½	...	-9.9
113.38	BlckRck Latin Am	385	- 13	...	-13.5
614.08	BlckRck Smlr	1264	+ 2	...	-13.4
145.01	BlckRck Sustain Amer	180¾	- 1¼	...	-8.6
549.65	BlckRck Throgmorton	557	...	...	-8.2
1,108.86	BlckRck Wld Min	580	- 12	...	-2.5
139.54	Brown Adv US sm	1167½	- 5½	...	-17.1
454.68	Brunner	1065	- 3	...	-12.8
1,915.96	Caledonia Inv	3505	+ 205	...	-30.8
1,967.93	City of Lon IT	391½	- 1½	...	1.2
52.44	Crystal Amber Fd♦	63	...	...	-36.2
360.58	CT Priv Eq Ord	495	- 9	...	-24.7
3.58	CT Property	73½	+ 73½	...	-14.5
297.02	CT UK Cap&Inc	284	...	...	-4.3
24.26	CT UK HIT B	79	...	...	-4.8
66.24	CT UK HIT	79½	- 1½	...	-4.8
99.68	CT UK HIT UNIT	311	...	...	-6.3
30.82	Dunedin Entp	560	- 3	...	-10.1
1,055.35	Edinburgh IT	653	+ 1	...	-9.4
585.47	Edin Wwide	150¾	- 1⅛	...	-16.5
85.04	EP Global Opp	291	- 3	...	-19.5
312.90	European Assets	86⅞	- 2	...	-8.0
773.97	European Opp Trust	799	- 2	...	-10.6
4,473.42	**F&C Invest Tr**	870	+ 2	...	-11.3
370.64	Fidlty Asian Val	516	- 2	...	-5.1
1,006.25	Fidelity China Sp	210	- 4	...	-10.8
538.22	FdltyEmrgMkt	590¾	+ ¾	...	-13.5
1,422.38	Fidelity European Trust	348	- 3	...	-4.8
215.88	Fidlty Jap Tru	167¾	- 2¼	...	-11.5
865.34	Fidlty Spec Val	267	- 2	...	-8.6
1,789.55	Fins Gwth & Inc	870	+ 4	...	-4.4
631.37	GCP Infrastructure	72⅛	- 2¾	...	-33.4
23.26	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	27⅛	- ¾	...	-14.6
3,214.86	Greencoat UK Wind	138⅝	- 1¼	...	-16.0
72.80	Hansa Investment	182	- 2	...	-41.4
145.60	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	182	- 3	...	-42.5
1,807.56	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2305	+ 60	...	-40.3
342.56	Hend Euro Foc	161	- 3	...	-10.4
211.24	Hend High Inc	162¾	+ 4¾	...	-1.8
531.13	Hend Smlr	711	- 3	...	-13.0
1,021.44	Herald	1754	- 16	...	-14.9
1,780.56	HgCapital Trust	389	+ 5	...	-17.6
2,604.37	HICL Infra	128⅛	- 1¾	...	-22.2
0.23	Highbridge Tactical	425	...	...	61.1
762.91	ICG Ent Tr	1128	+ 30	...	-39.7
1,143.48	Impax Env Mkts	390	- 9	...	-5.0
213.93	Invesco Asia Tr	320	...	...	-10.2
288.93	Invesco Bond Inc	162½	- ½	...	0.7
4.93	IPST Bal	117	- 2	...	-22.3
61.57	IPST Gbl Eq	244	...	...	-12.1
1.17	IPST Managed	93½	- ½	...	-15.0
101.49	IPST UK Eq	148½	- 8½	...	-13.2
140.72	IP UKSmallerCos	416	...	...	-8.3
1,471.67	JPM American	805	- 1	...	-1.6
317.57	JPM Asia Gro & Inc	347	+ 1	...	-8.8
204.26	JPM China	245½	- 8½	...	-10.9
385.53	JPM Claverhs	652	+ 2	...	-5.0
3.42	JPMorgan Emerg E & ME & Africa	648	+ 523	...	186.1
1,223.48	JPM Em Mkts	106½	+ ½	...	-7.0
599.19	JPM Euro disc	380½	- 6½	...	-13.0
376.43	JPM GEMI	127	...	...	-10.9
1,887.96	JPM GG&I	472½	+ 2½	...	1.5
629.95	JPM Indian	858	+ 20	...	-18.4
171.44	JPM Jap Sml Co	314½	- 4½	...	-12.2
724.95	JPM Japan	480	- 3	...	-8.5
189.20	JPM Mid Cap	878	+ 1	...	-13.6
67.73	JPM Multi-asset G&I	91¾	- ¼	...	-4.1
204.50	JPM Smllr Co	262	+ 1	...	-13.1
131.05	Keystone Positive Change Inv plc	212	- 1	...	-15.0
1,054.86	Law Debenture	807	+ 3	...	2.0
300.58	Lowland	111¼	- 1¾	...	-13.4
97.12	Majedie	183¼	- ¾	...	-25.2
241.42	M Currie Port	325	- 7	...	-2.1
50.77	Marwyn Val In	91½	- ½	...	-45.6
1,570.21	Mercantile IT	198¾	+ ¾	...	-13.4
786.56	Merchants	535	...	...	0.9
410.95	Mid Wynd	713	+ 7	...	-2.1
2,188.05	Monks Inv Tst	964	- 4	...	-13.8
240.95	Montanaro Eur Sml	127⅛	- 1¾	...	-12.0
901.08	Murray Income Trust	819	- 2	...	-8.5
1,506.02	Murray Int	241	- 2	...	-6.3
96.81	Nb Global Floating	73	+ 2	...	-8.3
443.31	Pacific Assets	366½	+ 7½	...	-7.4
1,492.04	Pantheon Int	283	+ 2	...	-37.5
5,723.81	**Pershing Sq**	3046	+ 42	...	-35.2
1,749.93	Personal Assets	465	...	...	-1.0
2,803.87	Polar Cap Tech	2260	...	...	-13.7
22.07	Prem Glb & Inf	121	...	...	-8.6
2,667.37	Renewables Inf	107⅜	- ½	...	-18.3
2,850.55	RIT Cap Ptnr	1914	+ 2	...	-20.4
275.20	Riverstone	605	+ 8	...	-53.4
407.29	Schroder TotRt	400	- 3	...	-5.9
762.89	Schrd Asia Pac	491½	- ½	...	-11.2
185.81	Schrod Inc Gwth	267½	+ 1½	...	-9.2
283.57	Schrod Jap Gwth	236½	+ 4½	...	-9.7
185.36	Schrod UKMid	536	...	...	-13.2
117.32	Schroder UK PP Tr	13	...	...	-48.5
893.36	Scot American	501	- 8	...	1.5
9,634.46	**Scot Mtge**	685⅛	- 4¾	...	-19.2
206.00	Secs Tst Scot	218½	+ 2½	...	-1.7
1,399.68	Sequoia Eco	83	...	...	-11.1
686.31	Temple Bar	231	+ 3	...	-6.1
1,687.86	Tplton Emg Mkt	148	...	...	-13.8
743.61	The Glbl Smaller	143¾	+ ¾	...	-13.0
0.76	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	+ ⅛	...	66.6
891.76	TR Property	281	- 2	...	-9.2
167.21	Troy Inc&Gth	69⅞	+ ⅞	...	-2.5
109.83	Utilico Ord	131	- 6	...	-36.5
437.88	Utilico Emerging Mkt	220½	- ½	...	-14.7
1,272.28	Vietnam Ent Inv	623	+ 21	...	-18.7
1,428.59	Witan	223	...	...	-10.0
1,835.23	Ww Health	311	- 1	...	-9.1



Construction & property

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
58.72	Alumasc♦	162½	+ 10	...	8.2
19.89	Aseana Props	10	...	...	-4.9
1,322.53	Assura‡	44½	- ⅝	...	8.9
4.96	Aukett Swanke♦	1¾	...	...	-2.6
1,800.05	Balfour Beatty	322¾	- ⅜	...	15.3
4,252.12	**Barratt Devs**	436¼	- 14⅛	...	6.8
2,542.60	Bellway	2122	+ 2	...	6.3
4,220.90	**Berkeley‡**	3972	- 74	...	10.3
1,889.82	Big Yellow Group	1024	- 33	...	6.7
45.27	Billington Hldgs♦	350	...	...	28.4
280.03	Boot (Henry)	209	+ 3	...	11.1
2,884.68	Br Land	311	- 3⅜	...	42.6
18.85	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
120.90	Cap & Regnl‡	55	- 1	...	-0.4
25.82	Cardiff Prop	2450	...	...	26.6
10.44	Carecapital♦#	1⅞	...	...	-0.2
72.93	Clarke T‡	138	+ 4	...	9.9
1,148.53	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 11	...	16.7
0.51	Craven House♦	13⅛	- ⅜	...	-0.2
31,212.77	**CRH**	4369	- 181	...	18.1
2,067.28	Derwent London‡	1841	+ 7	...	8.2
41.16	Dolphin Capital♦	4½	...	...	-3.1
21.34	First Prop♦	19¼	- ¼	...	...
3.74	Fletcher King♦	36½	...	...	...
105.45	Foxtons Group‡	35	- 1½	...	...
202.50	Galliford Try	195¾	- ⅜	...	43.5
793.61	Genuit Group‡	318½	- 4½	...	19.3
218.78	Gleeson (MJ)	375	- 11	...	5.8
2,121.86	Grafton	887¼	+ 21¾	...	10.2
1,735.18	Grainger	234	+ 1¾	...	14.5
1,057.11	Great Portland	416⅜	+ 3½	...	-5.2
1,243.65	Hammerson‡	24⅞	+ ⅞	...	-2.6
326.97	Harworth Gp	101	- 6½	...	3.4
10.14	Heath (Samuel)♦‡	400	...	...	8.2
274.47	Helical PLC	222½	- 8½	...	5.3
44.00	Highcroft Invs	845	+ 70	...	3.6
569.62	Ibstock‡	145	- 2⅝	...	18.8
856.92	James Halstead♦	198	...	...	21.0
560.38	Keller‡	770	+ 5	...	8.9
11,306.01	Kingspan Group	6214⅛	- 162⅛	...	24.4
4,300.68	**Land Sec‡**	577⅜	- 14⅛	...	...
227.50	Life Science Reit	65	+ ½	...	...
9.17	Lon & Assoc	10¾	...	...	-1.4
1,886.47	Londonmetric Property‡	173⅛	- 3½	...	3.6
31.23	Macau Prop Op	50½	- ¾	...	-6.5
667.84	Marshalls	264	- 11⅛	...	9.6
84.13	Michelmersh♦	89½	+ 2	...	14.2
937.62	Morgan Sindall	1980	+ 4	...	9.6
411.35	Mountview	10550	- 200	...	13.1
252.55	NewRiver REIT	81	- 1¼	...	-2.8
98.48	Palace Capital	260	+ 7	...	12.4
48.05	Panther Securities♦	275	...	...	2.4
3,251.70	**Persimmon**	1018	- 41	...	4.1
2.84	Pires Investments♦	1½	...	...	-3.3
2.06	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
1,238.94	Primary Health Properties	92⅝	- ⅛	...	9.4
50.07	Real Estate Invs♦	29	- ½	...	3.8
1,551.31	Redrow	469	- 5	...	5.8
1,756.04	Safestore	805½	- 52	...	4.5
1,304.54	Savills‡	903½	- 7½	...	9.0
7.75	Secure Property♦	6	+ ⅝	...	15.8
8,896.19	**Segro‡**	726⅜	+ ½	...	2.1
413.54	SIG	35	...	...	...
394.08	SigmaRoc♦	56¾	+ 2⅜	...	...
1,048.76	Sirius Real Estate	89	+ 1⅞	...	6.9
66.26	Smart (J)	166	...	...	4.5
59.13	Steppe Cement♦	27	- 1	...	6.2
3,995.21	**Taylor Wimpey**	113	- ⅞	...	7.4
59.60	Town Centre	123	+ 1	...	4.8
1,728.55	Travis Perkins	813⅜	- 34	...	7.9
2,630.97	Tritax Big Box Reit	138⅛	- ¾	...	2.5
424.38	Tritax Eurobox‡	52½	- ⅜	...	...
592.83	Tyman‡	302	+ 3½	...	11.9
4,010.85	**Unite**	920½	- 6	...	10.7
2,765.88	Vistry Group	800	+ 20½	...	7.0
345.41	Warehouse REIT‡	81¼	- 2½	...	1.9
933.39	Workspace Grp	486⅜	- 9⅛	...	-7.2
18.61	Wynnstay Props♦	690	...	...	5.0

Consumer goods

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.97	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
13.03	Airea♦	31½	...	...	11.6
292.47	Anglo-Eastern‡	738	- 4	...	6.7
105.17	Animalcare♦	175	...	...	...
15,244.61	**AB Foods**	1984	- 1	...	32.7
585.22	Bakkavor Group	101	+ 3⅛	...	10.5
547.26	Barr (AG)	488½	+ 2	...	17.3
10.41	Bidstack Group♦	¾	...	...	-0.6
7.99	Brand Architekts♦	28½	+ ½	...	-1.2
57,966.85	**Brit Amer Tob**	2592	- 16	...	8.7
2,230.15	Britvic	874½	- 2	...	19.8
7,894.16	**Burberry**	2126	- 56	...	18.3
537.60	C&C Grp	136¾	+ 2	...	-8.1
2.92	Capital Metals♦	1	...	...	-0.2
121.45	Carr's Grp‡	129	- ¼	...	15.9
51.57	Character Grp♦	267	+ 2	...	4.7
142.42	Churchill China♦	1295	+ 10	...	...
8,312.22	**Coca Cola HBC**	2257	+ 4	...	18.0
54.28	Colefax♦	750	...	...	13.2
1,863.12	Cranswick	3458	+ 98	...	18.2
562.20	Devro	329	+ ½	...	17.8
71,908.49	**Diageo‡**	3200	...	...	24.6
3.42	Distil♦	½	...	...	12.5
410.96	Evans (M.P.)♦	766	+ 32	...	6.5
118.65	Finsbury Food♦	91	- ½	...	10.8
3,462.57	Games Workshop‡	10520	- 200	...	28.9
3,469.17	Glanbia‡	1307	+ 2½	...	32.2
384.59	Greencore	79½	- 3⅛	...	15.9
185.77	Headlam	230	+ 13	...	9.9
636.18	Hilton Food	710	+ 29	...	14.8
28.88	Hornby♦	17	+ 1	...	80.9
15,802.63	**Imperial Brands‡**	1756	- 27½	...	5.8
2.62	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	+ ⅛	...	7.9
12,821.43	Kerry Gp	7238⅞	- 107¼	...	20.0
67.80	McBride	38⅞	+ ⅝	...	-6.9
120.15	Mulberry Group♦	200	- 10	...	8.2
384.82	Nichols♦‡	1055	+ 35	...	...
137.48	Norcros	154	+ 6	...	4.8
317.72	Origin Ents♦	284	+ ¾	...	8.9
0.77	Pittards♦#	5⅜	- 1	...	2.5
41.00	Portmeirion♦	293	+ 1	...	12.4
13.86	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
669.67	PZ Cussons	156⅛	- 4	...	18.0
22.90	REA	52¼	- ¼	...	-4.1
1.19	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
11.49	Tandem♦	210	- 10	...	3.0
312.37	Treatt	511	- 45	...	20.5
0.99	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2½	...	...	-1.6
...	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
101,675.32	**Unilever**	4042½	+ 13½	...	20.7
610.66	Victoria♦	531	- 31	...	...

Engineering

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.31	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
192.14	Avon Rubber‡	635	- 16	...	...
1,940.48	Babcock	383¾	- 5⅛	...	-2.3
31,278.15	**BAE**	1027½	+ 20	...	18.7
21.24	Braime A N/V♦	1475	...	...	16.6
26.64	Braime Group♦	1850	...	...	20.8
13.89	Caffyns	515	...	...	7.4
9.67	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	- ⅛	...	-2.8
147.76	Castings	340	- 2	...	16.4
4.07	Chamberlin♦	2⅞	...	...	-0.2
28.08	Checkit♦	26	...	...	-3.1
209.43	Cohort♦‡	505	+ 9	...	44.8
112.50	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
68.58	Dewhurst♦	855	...	...	9.8
75.02	Dialight	226	+ 11	...	...
2,234.96	Electrolux 'B'	813	- 41¾	...	6.1
11.67	Feedback♦	87½	...	...	...
132.54	Gooch Hsego♦	514	- 2	...	38.0
360.09	Goodwin	4795	+ 105	...	26.5
8,264.88	**Halma**	2177	+ 43	...	31.5
1,390.04	Hill & Smith	1734	- 58	...	40.8
2.58	Holders Tech♦‡	61	...	...	3.7
2.39	Image Scan♦	1¾	...	...	10.2
3,894.62	**IMI‡**	1493	- 5	...	20.4
0.77	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
599.91	Judges Scientific♦	9070	- 390	...	45.7
11.80	LPA♦	87½	- 2	...	...
6,261.19	Meggitt	798¾	+ ¾	...	...
6,903.34	**Melrose**	510¾	- 5⅜	...	...
700.58	Morgan Advanced	245½	- 15	...	10.3
38.39	Mpac♦	187½	- 25	...	4.9
115.04	MS Intl♦	705	- 10	...	...
1,289.45	Oxford Inst‡	2230	+ 25	...	30.4
...	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
4.25	PipeHawk♦	11⅝	+ ¼	...	24.8
12.57	Pressure Tech♦	32½	- 1	...	-2.7
2,582.54	Renishaw	3548	- 30	...	20.2
68.75	Renold♦	30½	+ ⅛	...	10.8
18,550.40	**Rolls-Royce**	220⅜	+ 1¼	...	...
1.69	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
2,610.26	Rotork‡	303⅛	- ¾	...	32.9
106.65	SDI Group♦	102½	- 11½	...	16.9
736.50	Senior	175½	- 1¾	...	30.6
190.68	Severfield‡	61½	- 6	...	11.0
3.44	Six Hundred♦	2⅝	- 2⅞	...	15.7
5,452.48	SKF B	1280	- 9⅜	...	9.4
2.78	Slingsby (HC)♦	265	...	...	4.3
5,777.47	**Smiths**	1658½	+ 23½	...	26.3
149.08	Solid State♦‡	1315	+ 5	...	31.6
167.18	Somero Enter♦	300	+ 20	...	6.6
3,432.56	Spectris	3324	+ 11	...	10.9
7,364.80	**Spirax-Sarco**	9984	- 8	...	31.4
77.96	Surface Trsfms♦	32¼	- ¾	...	...
6.01	Tanfield♦	3⅝	...	...	...
451.34	Thorpe FW♦	385	...	...	26.7
17.14	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
15.11	Transense Tech♦	97½	...	...	71.6
2,513.35	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 8	...	37.4
1,185.20	Vesuvius‡	437	- 4¾	...	11.6
240.92	Videndum	517	- 7	...	9.4
573.24	Volex♦	316	- 6	...	17.2
4,948.21	**Weir**	1906	+ 64½	...	32.2
429.39	XP Power‡	2175	+ 65	...	11.6
7.88	Zytronic♦	77½	- 7½	...	25.8

Health

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2,810.87	Abcam♦	1226	- 41	...	...
402.71	AdvancedMedical♦	185⅜	- 64½	...	29.1
19.35	Allergy Therap♦	2¾	...	...	-3.3
41.17	Angle♦	15¾	+ 4	...	-2.1
54.74	Anpario♦	227½	+ 15	...	11.9
168,101.87	**AstraZeneca‡**	10846	+ 146	...	...
4,598.49	**Convatec‡**	224¾	- 6	...	52.5
21.56	Creighton	31½	+ 3½	...	6.0
4,334.59	Dechra Pharma	3806	- 4	...	56.8
3.42	Deltex Medical♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
90.32	e-Therapeutics♦	15½	...	...	...
73.84	Eco Animal Hlth♦	109	+ 1	...	13.2
122.51	EKF Diagnostics♦	27	...	...	7.6
150.36	Futura Medical♦	50	- 2	...	...
1,391.87	Genus	2108	- 192	...	37.5
59,140.23	**GSK‡**	1444⅛	+ 56½	...	16.6
1.57	Gunsynd♦	¼	...	...	3.4
29,444.44	**Haleon‡**	318¾	- 1	...	...
4,610.34	Hikma Pharms‡	2086	- 87	...	15.6
1,977.15	Hutchmed China♦	227	- 16	...	...
8.48	ImmuPharma♦	2	...	...	-0.6
2,532.56	Indivior	1836	+ 17	...	...
30.02	Inspiration Health♦	44	- 1	...	6.8
9.67	IXICO♦	20	- ¼	...	6.4
3,693.59	Mediclinic	501	+ 1	...	31.3
3.51	N4 Pharma♦	1½	...	...	-1.7
283.38	NIOX Group♦‡	67⅜	- 1⅛	...	67.4
CHF182.255bn	Novartis	CHF88.12	- 1.23	...	27.5

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
5.23	Omega Diags♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.8
1.66	Ovoca Bio♦	2	- ¼	...	-0.5
291.73	Oxford Biomedica	302	- 22	...	13.5
2.37	Physiomics♦	1¾	+ ⅛	...	-6.7
18.45	Proteome Scies♦	6¼	+ ¼	...	...
41,664.03	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	5806	+ 96	...	...
3.61	RUA Life Sciences♦	16¼	...	...	-1.5
57.81	Sareum Hldgs♦	82½	+ 5	...	...
9,319.12	**Smith & Neph**	1067	+ 2½	...	24.2
848.65	Spire Hcare	210	- 7	...	...
17.12	Synairgen♦	8½	- ½	...	-0.3
38.11	Tissue Regenix♦	54	+ 4½	...	...
16.41	Totally♦‡	8¼	- ⅜	...	13.2
172.69	Tristel♦	365	+ 32½	...	75.2
6.50	ValiRx♦	6¼	...	...	...

Industrials

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
152.79	Accsys Tech♦	69⅜	- 3¾	...	...
34,069.92	BASF	3817¼	- 206⅜	...	7.5
42,315.88	Bayer DM50	4307¼	- 58¼	...	50.3
5.96	Biome Tech♦	157½	+ 2½	...	-5.2
7.49	Byotrol♦	1⅝	- ⅛	...	...
4.98	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
1,211.14	Coats Grp	75¾	- ⅞	...	16.9
7,316.90	**Croda**‡	5240	- 316	...	22.8
71.18	Cropper (James)♦‡	745	- 5	...	22.7
684.55	Elementis	116½	+ ¾	...	...
6.77	Hardide♦	11½	...	...	-2.2
3,210.43	**Johnson Math**	1750	- 40½	...	22.0
6,270.93	**Mondi**‡	1291½	- 22	...	9.8
15.50	Robinson♦	92½	...	...	...
3,993.23	**DS Smith**‡	289⅞	- 23	...	16.4
5,071.69	Swire Pacific	591⅞	+ 13⅜	...	...
14.78	Symph Environ♦	8	- ¾	...	...
222.08	Synthomer	47½	- 14⅝	...	0.9
38,707.50	Takeda Pharm	2446⅛	+ 1	...	13.7
24.86	Velocys♦	1½	...	...	-1.8
1,282.65	Victrex	1474	- 31	...	17.5
93.04	Wynnstay Group♦	412½	- 2½	...	9.4
168.52	Zotefoams‡	345	...	...	20.7

Leisure

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
574.61	888 Hldgs	128	+ 2¾	...	9.4
293.95	Accesso Tech♦	700	+ 6	...	18.4
44.85	Best of the Best♦	530	...	...	5.9
13,757.91	Carnival	1086½	- 24½	...	-1.7
118.22	Celtic♦	125	- 2½	...	12.3
5.23	Cineworld#	⅜	...	...	...
1,618.68	Domino's Pizza‡	392⅜	- ⅛	...	20.0
7,492.87	**Entain**‡	1173	+ 19½	...	26.2
25,089.96	**Flutter Ent**	14205	- 215	...	...
105.52	Gaming Realms♦	36	+ 1⅜	...	...
14.58	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
7.54	Heavitree A♦	150	...	...	9.0
2.10	Hermes Pacific♦	90	- 20	...	...
10,258.44	**InterContinental Hotels**‡	6134	+ 164	...	57.4
6.39	Minoan Gp♦	¾	...	...	-6.0
1,313.05	Mitch & Butlers	219¾	- ⅛	...	...
160.64	On The Beach	96⅜	+ 3⅞	...	-5.0
461.71	PPHE Hotels	1090	- 20	...	-8.8
397.23	Rank Grp	84¾	- 2⅛	...	11.4
363.40	Restaurant Gp	47½	+ 5	...	-8.9
13.03	Rotala♦	42	- 1½	...	...
9.69	Sportech♦	96⅞	- 12¼	...	...
1,838.39	SSP	230¾	- 2⅜	...	-4.5
3.44	Tasty♦	2¼	...	...	3.1
11.97	Tintra♦#	67½	...	...	-1.1
2,358.54	Tui	464¾	+ 11⅜	...	-4.8
5.70	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
885.16	Wetherspoon JD	687½	- 31	...	-6.4
6,994.44	**Whitbread**	3600	+ 131	...	...
652.10	Young & Co - A♦	1115	- 45	...	...
462.03	Young & Co - N/V♦	790	+ 16	...	...

Media

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
7.30	Aeorema Comms♦	76½	...	...	21.1
35.42	Altitude Group♦	50	- 2	...	...
12.90	Arcontech Grp♦	96½	+ 8½	...	13.3
896.76	Ascential	198⅞	- 6⅞	...	...
5,519.37	**Auto Trader**‡	602⅛	- 5⅛	...	29.7
326.43	Bloomsbury Pub	400	- 11½	...	16.4
0.79	Bonhill Group♦	⅝	+ ⅛	...	-1.5
25.03	Catalyst Media♦	119	- 1	...	...
0.41	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
2.54	DCD Media♦#	100	- 50	...	5.0
62.66	Ebiquity♦	46	...	...	...
867.24	Future	722½	- 60½	...	12.4
1,297.12	GlobalData♦‡	153½	- 1½	...	7.6
351.72	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
130.08	IG Design Grp♦	132½	...	...	19.4
10,305.92	**Informa**‡	741	+ 4½	...	...
2,864.43	ITV	71	+ ¼	...	7.6
4.44	Jaywing♦	4¾	...	...	...
5.33	Live Company Gp♦#	2	...	...	-0.4
593.53	ME Group	157	- 5	...	27.4
0.63	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-4.5
10.66	Merit Grp♦	44½	+ 2	...	...
0.14	Mirada♦	1½	- 1⅜	...	...
38.23	Mission Group♦	42	+ ½	...	7.1
1,332.50	Moneysupermarket‡	248⅛	+ 1⅜	...	25.3
6,436.36	News Corp A	1689½	- 14¾	...	27.5
3,328.78	News Corp B	1735⅛	- 10	...	28.3
643.81	Next 15 Group♦	646	+ 14	...	...
6,323.12	**Pearson**‡	881¾	+ 42	...	42.1
4.13	Primorus Inv♦	2⅞	- ⅛	...	5.3
47.02	Quarto	115	...	...	6.4
227.73	Reach‡	71⅝	- 2¾	...	79.6
16.92	REACT Grp♦	1½	...	...	22.8
51,480.77	**Relx**	2722	+ 143	...	35.9
4,569.56	**Rightmove**	562¾	+ 3¾	...	31.8
1.55	SpaceandPeople♦	79½	+ 4½	...	...
91.11	STV Group	195	...	...	4.7
27.26	System1 Group♦	215	+ 8	...	10.2
6,332.20	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2496	+ 14¾	...	13.6
5,420.89	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2301	- 1½	...	12.6
3.25	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.6
273.31	Wilmington	310	- 4	...	19.7
8,175.22	**WPP**	760½	- 9¾	...	14.4
17.69	Zinc Media♦	80	...	...	-5.0

Natural resources

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1.85	ADM Energy♦	½	...	...	...
2.67	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
122.39	AFC Energy♦	16⅜	+ 1⅛	...	...
53.58	Afentra PLC♦#	24¼	...	...	...
7.58	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.0
11.09	Alien Metals♦	⅛	...	...	-5.8
1,500.52	Alumina	51⅝	- 3½	...	10.7
46.32	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.4
1.25	Amur Mins Corp♦#	...	...	...	-2.0
6,641.93	Anglo Amer Plat	2503⅝	+ 2477⅛	...	1.8
27,059.20	**Anglo American**‡	2023	- 113	...	4.0
63.98	Anglo Asian Mng♦	56	- 4	...	4.8
14,457.59	**Antofagasta**‡	1466½	- 4½	...	15.1
41.68	Arc Minerals♦	3⅜	+ ¼	...	2.4
31.52	Ariana Res♦	2¾	- ¼	...	3.7
1.28	Arkle Resources♦	¼	...	...	-1.0
4.99	Armadale Cap♦	¾	...	...	...
25.57	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1⅛	...	...	...
458.80	Atalaya Mine♦‡	328	+ 4	...	4.1
15.57	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
17.36	Beowulf Mining♦	1½	...	...	-6.5
2.44	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.6
111,771.50	BHP Group‡	2207	- 97	...	9.6
15.71	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2⅛	...	...	...
71.87	Bougainville	17⅞	+ 1	...	...
6.03	BowLeven♦	1¾	- ⅛	...	-2.2
88,980.76	**BP**‡	517¼	+ 16½	...	18.7
12.58	Cadence Min♦	6⅞	+ ⅛	...	0.7
4.27	Cadogan Petrol	1¾	...	...	24.3
148.71	Caledonia Mining♦	775	- 50	...	7.5
235.11	Capricorn Energy	164½	- 6⅜	...	1.3
69.77	Caspian Sunrise♦	3	...	...	91.1
1,000.31	Centamin‡	86¼	- 1¼	...	13.3
366.54	Cent Asia Metals♦	201½	- 3	...	5.9
36.21	Chaarat Gold♦	5¼	- 1¼	...	...
148.72	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	13⅞	- 1	...	...
3.51	China Nonferr Gold♦	⅞	- ½	...	-6.3
3.89	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.5
42.18	Condor Gld♦	22½	- ½	...	...
5.84	Corcel♦	⅜	+ ⅛	...	-0.4
666.62	DRD Gold	77	+ 76¼	...	9.1
2.69	ECR Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-1.4
9.07	Empyrean Energy♦	⅞	+ ⅛	...	-6.5
3,836.18	**Endeavour**‡	1554	- 66	...	23.1
282.89	EnQuest	15	- 2⅛	...	0.9
82.90	Eurasia Mining♦	2⅞	...	...	...
11.99	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1¼	+ ⅛	...	11.3
468.34	Ferrexpo	78¼	+ ⅜	...	0.6
4,085.34	**Fresnillo**‡	554⅜	- 14¾	...	13.1
43.86	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
16.36	Galantas Gold♦	14¼	- 1¼	...	-2.4
4.36	GCM Resources♦	2	...	...	-1.7
23.98	Gem Diamonds	17⅛	...	...	1.7
5.84	Getech♦	8⅝	...	...	-2.0
52,602.89	**Glencore**‡	426	- 1⅛	...	15.5
1.30	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-1.5
8,921.00	Gold Fields	998⅜	+ 988¼	...	15.3
11.07	Goldplat♦	6½	- ⅛	...	5.0
10.72	Goldstone Res♦#	2⅛	- ¾	...	-9.9
309.19	Greatld Gld♦	6	- ¼	...	...
156.00	Griffin Mining♦	80⅞	- 3	...	8.9
201.64	Gulf Keystone	90⅝	- 1⅝	...	5.6
23.02	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	13¼	- 2⅝	...	1.0
429.32	Hochschild	83⅜	- 4¼	...	8.0
361.10	Horizonte Minrls♦	134	+ 4	...	...
422.25	Hunting PLC	256	+ 3	...	-6.5
1.59	Independ Res♦#	...	...	...	...
257.99	Indus Gas♦	141	...	...	14.6
10.90	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-4.3
493.17	ITM Power♦	80	- 3⅜	...	...
191.67	Jubilee Metals♦	7	...	...	5.8
4.25	Karel Diamd Res♦	4½	+ ¾	...	...
30.63	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	½	...	...	-2.5
398.28	Kenmare Res	420	+ ½	...	4.9
37.60	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
12.66	Landore Res♦	10⅜	+ ⅝	...	-2.3
1.37	Lansdowne O&G♦	...	...	...	-2.8
2.73	Leeds Group♦	10	- 2½	...	-1.6
19.93	Lexington Gold♦	6	- ⅛	...	...
30.97	MC Mining♦	7¾	- ½	...	-1.6
44.01	Metals Explorn♦	2	...	...	3.5
1.27	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
1.94	Nostrum O&G	11⅜	- 1	...	-0.1
4,549.45	Oil Search	218⅞	+ 5⅜	...	60.3
13.60	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
4.25	Oriole Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.1
3.54	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
5.85	Orosur Mining♦	3	...	...	-4.6
266.78	Pan African Res♦	13⅞	...	...	4.5
202.49	Pantheon Res♦	22¼	...	...	...
19.39	Parkmead Grp♦	17¾	- ¼	...	-1.5
3.00	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅜	- ⅛	...	-3.9
135.94	Petra Diamonds	70	- 1¾	...	2.3
1.87	Petrel Resources♦	1	- ⅛	...	-5.3
41.77	Petro Matad♦	3¾	- ⅛	...	...
401.98	Petrofac	77	+ 4¼	...	-1.9
0.91	Petroneft Res♦#	...	...	...	-0.2
47.51	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	+ ⅛	...	1.6
181.13	Phoenix Global♦	6½	- ½	...	-1.6
14.06	Plexus Holdings♦	14	+ 4⅝	...	-3.4
1,018.30	Polymetal Intl#	215	...	...	...
278.16	Porvair	600	- 10	...	23.0
19.21	Prospex Energy♦	6¼	- ¼	...	-8.3
128.20	Proton Motor Power S♦	8¼	+ ¾	...	-1.5
34.84	Providence Res♦	3¼	- ⅛	...	29.0
16.48	Quadrise♦	1	...	...	-4.0
8.71	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
9.38	Reabold Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.7
3.93	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.8
21,129.09	Rio Tinto Ltd	5691¾	- 88½	...	5.9
78,430.02	**Rio Tinto**‡	4834½	- 138	...	5.0
74.24	San Leon Energy♦#	16½	+ 4	...	6.1
4.28	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
17.80	Serabi Gold♦	23½	- ½	...	3.2
988.47	Serica Energy♦	256⅜	+ 4½	...	...
107.25	Shanta Gold♦	10⅛	+ ⅛	...	6.4
166,703.22	**Shell**‡	2502½	+ 58	...	13.1
5.15	Shuka Minerals♦	13¼	- 1	...	-0.8
15.77	Sound Energy♦	¾	- ⅛	...	5.2
12.50	Star Energy♦	9¾	- ⅞	...	-0.5
3.48	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	-9.4
2.48	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.2
4.31	Thor Mining♦	1¾	...	...	...
122,382.61	Total Eng SE	5087⅜	+ 20½	...	11.6
3.21	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.7
534.72	Tullow Oil	36⅞	- ¼	...	3.6
8.02	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-1.2
2.06	URU Metals♦	125	...	...	4.0
8.70	Vast Res♦	¼	...	...	...
9.99	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	- ⅛	...	-1.8
3.89	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
2.88	Westmount Engy♦	2	...	...	-0.4
1,109.02	Wood Grp (J)	160¼	+ 4	...	-6.5
23.59	Woodbois♦	⅝	...	...	2.4
11.56	Xtract Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-2.4
59.03	Zephyr Energy♦	3½	+ ¼	...	-4.4

Professional & support services

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1,411.44	4imprint Grp‡	5010	- 130	...	84.5
264.84	Andrews Sykes♦	630	+ 25	...	20.1
22,735.09	**Ashtead**‡	5190	- 356	...	25.2
1.26	Asimilar Group♦	1	- ¼	...	...
54.99	AssetCo♦	39	- 1	...	0.2
55.41	Avisen♦	50	...	...	...
186.53	Begbies Traynor♦	119¼	- 2¾	...	...
171.10	Blancco Tech♦	226	...	...	81.0
9,486.58	**Bunzl**	2807	- 43	...	21.3
278.33	Capita	16¼	- 1⅛	...	1.2
8.61	CEPS♦	41	+ 2	...	-9.3
27.85	Christie Group♦	105	...	...	44.6
35,299.28	**Compass**	2049	+ 56½	...	49.8
13.93	CPPGroup♦	157½	+ ½	...	...
6.78	Croma Security♦	49½	+ 1½	...	7.1
4,330.09	**DCC**	4384	+ 62	...	14.4
112.42	De La Rue	57⅜	+ 1⅜	...	7.5
4,219.41	Diploma	3148	+ 14	...	56.3
700.51	Discoverie	727	- 8	...	59.5
14.37	Driver Group♦	27½	- 2	...	13.1
426.59	Essentra	146⅛	- 1¾	...	16.4
25,567.52	**Experian**	2778	+ 10	...	35.6
25,245.01	Ferguson	12370	- 480	...	18.2
30.30	FIH Group♦	242	- 8	...	...
10.30	Grafenia♦	9	- ¼	...	-6.6
154.29	Hargeaves Serv♦	472½	+ 7	...	4.9
313.93	Impellam Grp♦	700	- 10	...	38.2
18.90	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
6,786.58	**Intertek**	4205	+ 61	...	23.6
1,703.32	IWG	169⅛	- 5½	...	-6.4
564.62	Johnson Srvce♦	133¾	+ 10	...	83.6
30.65	Journeo♦	189	+ 4½	...	42.3
389.19	Kier Gp	87⅛	+ 3⅛	...	8.5
224.78	Latham (J)♦	1115	- 10	...	6.1
234.61	Lok'n Store♦	716	- 16	...	21.7
367.80	Lon Security♦	3000	...	...	16.5
242.27	LSL Prop Services	233	- 9	...	6.4
175.64	Macfarlane	110½	+ 2	...	12.8
23.70	Maintel Hldgs♦	165	...	...	5.0
5.99	Malvern Intl♦	24½	+ ½	...	...
284.49	Mears Group	274	- 2	...	23.8
558.16	Menzies (John)	607	+ 1	...	48.0
1,371.90	Mitie Gp	102⅛	+ 4½	...	51.1
5.05	MobilityOne♦	4¾	...	...	3.5
5.06	Newmark Sec♦	54	...	...	...
3.40	Norm Broadbent♦	5½	- ¼	...	...
10.21	Northern Bear♦‡	54½	...	...	5.5
116.11	NWF Grp♦	235	+ 15	...	...
1,321.70	PageGroup‡	402⅛	- 12	...	10.8
30.76	PCI-PAL♦	47	+ ½	...	-9.7
3.89	Petards♦	6⅞	...	...	12.5
2.48	PHSC♦	22½	...	...	40.9
22.91	PowerHouse Egy♦	½	...	...	-0.9
152.08	Record	76⅜	- ½	...	20.9
752.95	Redde Northgate‡	329½	+ 1½	...	8.2
560.27	Renew Hldgs♦	708	- 16	...	17.5
394.46	Renewi	491½	+ 10	...	10.4
14,843.03	**Rentokil**‡	589	- 6¾	...	41.7
273.85	Restore♦	200	+ 27½	...	23.8
323.54	Ricardo	520	- 4	...	46.4
259.65	Robert Walters‡	356	- 12	...	8.1
4.06	Roebuck Food Grp♦	13½	...	...	2.0
613.30	RPS Group	221	...	...	...
3,539.27	**RS Group**	747½	- 16⅜	...	18.9
7.54	RTC Group♦	51½	- 2	...	...
897.33	RWS Hldgs♦	234	- 7¾	...	21.4
189.14	Science Group♦	410	- 15	...	18.8
1,653.11	Serco‡	149¾	- 2½	...	6.1
107.01	Smiths News	43⅛	+ 1	...	4.1
7,799.27	**Smurfit Kappa**	2998	- 294	...	13.6
44.24	Staffline Gp♦	28⅞	- 2	...	22.2
478.23	SThree	355½	+ 2	...	11.5
20.02	Synectics♦	112½	...	...	...
44.17	Thruvision Group♦	30	+ 2	...	...
92.32	Tribal♦	43½	- 1¼	...	13.5
23.20	Vianet♦	78½	- 2	...	...
216.83	Vp	540	...	...	13.3
4.63	Westminster♦	1⅜	...	...	-1.7

Real estate

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2,298.88	Shaftesbury Cap‡	117⅝	+ 2	...	34.6

Retailing

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
542.12	AO World	93⅝	+ ¾	...	...
5,640.25	**B&M European**	562¾	- 11	...	13.0
101.00	Brown (N)♦	21¾	- ⅝	...	6.4
355.84	Card Factory	103¾	+ 1⅛	...	...
1,147.16	CVS Group♦	1606	- 506	...	44.9
257.56	DFS Furn	110	- ¾	...	5.8
2,263.41	Dunelm	1122	- 23	...	15.1
3,640.60	**Frasers Group**	798½	- 9½	...	35.4
2,452.09	Greggs‡	2398	- 62	...	20.9
421.44	Halfords‡	192½	+ 8⅝	...	6.4
4,036.04	Howden Joinery	735½	+ 2½	...	13.8
3,163.63	Inchcape	766	- 2½	...	25.8
7.85	IQ-AI	4¼	+ ⅜	...	...
7,139.58	**JD Sports**	137¾	- 6¼	...	16.6
4,288.82	**Kingfisher**	226	- 6½	...	5.6
491.06	Lookers‡	128½	...	...	8.2
4,376.34	Marks & Spencer	221⅞	- 6¼	...	...
28.76	Mothercare♦	5	...	...	-3.1
52.32	Naked Wines♦	70⅝	- ¼	...	...
9,012.79	**Next**	7108	+ 80	...	13.5
6,841.48	**Ocado**	826¾	- 44¾	...	...
255.36	Pendragon	18¼	...	...	5.7
1,654.29	Pets at Home	346⅛	- 32	...	14.1
182.92	Saga	129	- 22⅜	...	...
6,319.86	**Sainsbury's**	266⅞	- 3⅜	...	22.4
1,809.21	WH Smith	1382	- 95	...	...
56.47	Sosandar♦	22¾	- ¾	...	...
100.06	Studio Retail#	115	- 6	...	2.4
18,425.43	**Tesco**	258½	- 6	...	13.1
96.77	Topps Tiles	49⅛	- ¾	...	8.9

Technology

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
75.34	Access Intell♦	59	- 1½	...	-8.1
20.02	Aferian plc♦	18	+ 5½	...	3.2
472.36	Alfa Financial	160	+ 9	...	25.0
32.89	Allied Minds	13¾	+ 4¼	...	-1.2
164.56	Aptitude Software	287	- 7	...	32.2
124.76	Bango♦	162½	- 5½	...	...
126.89	BATM Adv Coms	29	+ 2⅜	...	12.2
86.93	Berkeley Res	19½	- 1½	...	-8.3
35.91	Blackbird♦	9¾	+ ¼	...	...
5.47	CloudCoCo Group♦	¾	...	...	-1.8
2,837.55	Computacenter	2486	+ 310	...	15.4
61.62	Concurrent Tech♦	73½	+ 2	...	17.4
31.26	Corero♦	6¼	...	...	...
546.25	Craneware♦	1547½	+ 172½	...	70.5
16.11	Crimson Tide♦	2⅜	...	...	16.3
40.10	CyanConn Hldgs♦	14¾	- 1½	...	...
75.77	D4t4 Solutions♦	190	+ 5	...	22.5
2.66	Dillistone Group♦	13½	...	...	-3.9
18.21	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-1.8
610.32	FDM Group	557	- 14	...	19.3
35.49	Filtronic♦	16½	...	...	44.5
446.60	First Derivts♦	1590	- 60	...	...
560.73	GB Group♦	222	- 2⅜	...	16.9
124.63	GreshamTech	149	+ ½	...	...
64.35	Ilika♦	40½	- 2½	...	...
16.93	Ingenta♦	116½	+ ½	...	68.1
30.28	Intercede♦	52	+ 3	...	17.9
197.21	Iomart♦‡	176	- 1	...	19.3
162.49	IQE♦	16⅞	- 1½	...	...
55.02	K3 Business Tch♦	123	...	...	-2.1
5,055.52	LG Electronics	1281⅜	- 112⅛	...	3.4
3.71	Location Sciences♦#	⅛	...	...	-2.3
39.84	MTI Wireless♦	45	+ ½	...	14.9
55.86	Nanoco Gp	17⅛	- ⅝	...	...
132.37	Netcall♦	82½	+ 5½	...	...
12.39	Northamber♦	45½	...	...	...
1.72	Online Blockchain♦	12	+ ½	...	-6.3
131.07	Oxford Metrics♦	100½	+ 3	...	43.7
2.95	Parity♦	2¾	- ⅜	...	-4.1
14.02	Pennant Intl♦	38	+ 1	...	...
1,642.35	Playtech	531	+ 5½	...	5.5
1,935.36	QinetiQ	334⅜	- ⅛	...	26.1
51.92	RM	61⅞	+ ⅞	...	12.3
10,471.01	**Sage**	1020	+ 50	...	39.1
234.82	Seeing Machines♦	5⅝	- ⅛	...	...
10.36	Shearwater Grp♦	43½	- 5½	...	26.9
12.16	Smartspace S'ware♦	42	- ½	...	-4.3
3,027.26	Softcat	1517	+ 15	...	29.7
850.03	Spirent Comms‡	146⅞	- 7	...	13.6
97.12	SRT Marine♦	50½	+ ½	...	...
12,636.40	Tele. Ericsson	409⅞	+ ⅛	...	7.4
7.94	Touchstar♦	96¼	- 8¾	...	...
230.93	Tracsis♦	770	+ 40	...	98.0
8.50	Trakm8♦	17	...	...	...
21.57	Triad Grp	130	- 5	...	14.2
75.95	Wandisco♦	66⅛	- 11¾	...	-1.2
69.43	Water Intel♦	400	- 15	...	22.0
149.31	Xaar	190	+ 1	...	...
16.45	Yourgene♦	½	...	...	-0.3
59.64	Zoo Digital♦	61	- 5½	...	...

Telecoms

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
50.21	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	+ 1½	...	...
4,219.68	**Airtel Africa**	112½	- 2½	...	10.0
11,150.23	**BT Group**‡	112⅛	- 3¼	...	10.8
558.59	Currys plc	49¼	- ⅞	...	2.3
1,121.15	Gamma Comms♦	1154	+ 84	...	20.9
926.02	Helios Towers	88⅛	- 1¼	...	-7.9
2,226.06	Just Eat T'away	1012	- 94	...	-2.1
4.15	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.3
6.27	Mobile Tornado♦	1½	...	...	-8.8
1,227.50	Telecom Plus	1544	- 40	...	39.5
19,825.83	**Vodafone**	73⅛	- ⅜	...	...

Transport

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
76.71	Braemar Ship#	233	+ 9	...	7.7
3,270.77	EasyJet	431½	+ 6½	...	-2.7
35.48	Esken Limited	3⅜	...	...	-0.1
1,056.72	FirstGroup	155⅝	+ 7½	...	37.0
169.85	Fisher (James)	337	+ 5	...	-6.1
7,621.33	**International Airlines**	155	- 4¼	...	-3.4
2,421.08	IDS	253⅛	+ 10⅞	...	2.9
668.51	Irish Cont Uts	393	...	...	...
2,333.59	Jet2♦	1087	+ 27	...	-5.8
543.16	Mobico Group	88⅜	+ 4⅝	...	-5.2
330.29	Ocean Wilson	934	- 56	...	4.7
588.37	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
22.74	Sutton Harbour♦	17½	...	...	...
296.41	Wincanton	238	+ 2½	...	6.4
2,112.12	Wizz Air	2044	- 156	...	-4.6

Utilities

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
8,942.34	**Centrica**	161⅞	+ 8¼	...	16.3
1,658.27	ContourGlobal	251	+ ½	...	28.3
2,099.18	Drax Group‡	542½	- 4½	...	40.1
137.88	Jersey Electricity	450	...	...	8.5
36,747.64	**National Grid**	996⅜	+ 10¾	...	23.2
33.56	OPG Power♦	8⅜	- ¼	...	5.4
1,597.92	Pennon	611½	- 25½	...	44.3
3.09	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
6,118.57	**Severn Trent**	2423	+ 43	...	...
17,734.71	**SSE**‡	1626½	+ 14	...	6.3
6,492.94	**United Utilities**	952⅛	+ 20⅛	...	87.3

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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With the Ryobi 18V ONE+™ Cordless Patio Cleaner, you can power through even the toughest outdoor mess with consummate ease.

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Innovative design for easy cleaning

The Ryobi 18V ONE+™ Patio Cleaner features an innovative telescopic height adjustment handle, which means easy upright cleaning for any user.

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Trustpilot 4.6/5

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Owners of this 18V Cordless Patio Cleaner couldn't be happier! "I was so impressed with the Ryobi ONE+™ Patio Cleaner," says Jenny. "It made cleaning my patio so easy, and I loved the wire brush that just powered through the weeds and overgrown grass. I'm so glad I added this to my collection of Ryobi tools." Jenny P (verified buyer).

Another regular customer said: "It's powerful, easy to use, and perfect for keeping my outdoor space looking great." Dave R (verified buyer).

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Order the Ryobi 18V ONE+™ Patio Cleaner today and power through even the toughest of outdoor messes with ease.









Ryobi 18V Cordless Patio Cleaner Kit
What you get

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John, Verified Purchaser

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Controversial Zulu chief and apartheid-era politician
Mangosuthu Buthelezi
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Register

Obituaries

Mike Yarwood

Television comedian and impressionist whose masterful caricatures made mimicry an art form and him a household name

PA



Yarwood with Harold Wilson in 1977. The comedian's impression of the prime minister earned him an OBE but Neil Kinnock, right, was more of a challenge



Mike Yarwood was six when he did his first impression. Stuffing a cushion up his jumper and borrowing a pair of his father's owlish spectacles, he ran around the room chortling "Yaroo!" and "Oh, Crikey!" — the catchphrases of the obese Billy Bunter, as played by Gerald Campion in the BBC's popular television adaptation of Frank Richards' stories about life at Greyfriars School.

By the time he was 22 his talent for mimicry had led to his television debut on ITV's *Comedy Bandbox*. It was 1963, the year that British television was embracing political satire with *That Was The Week That Was*, which would later inspire shows such as *Spitting Image*.

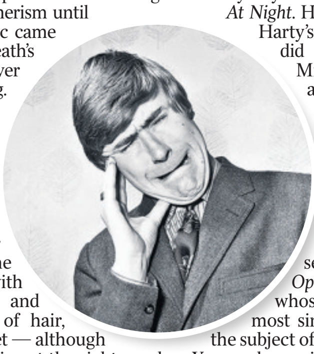
Yarwood was brilliant at spoofing the political leaders of the day, but unlike Peter Fluck and Roger Law's puppets there was nothing abrasive about his impersonations, which were warm and indulged in a mockery of the mildest nature to which few could take offence.

When he created the catchphrase "silly Billy" for Denis Healey, Labour's ebullient chancellor of the exchequer loved it so much that he adopted it as his own and began using it to dismiss his political opponents.

His Harold Wilson impersonation was equally admired by its subject. It captured his distinctive Yorkshire voice, gestures and mannerisms and cleverly exploited the prime minister's trademark props, such as his pipe and Gannex raincoat. Wilson was flattered to be invited to appear on television with his impersonator and appointed him OBE in his 1976 resignation honours list.

'Princess Diana told him she loved the impression he did of her husband'

Wilson's Conservative rival, the somewhat humourless Edward Heath, was less keen to play along with the joke. Yarwood initially found Heath's wooden style elusive until he noticed that on the rare occasions when he laughed, his shoulders shook up and down. He exaggerated the mannerism until the general public came to believe that Heath's shoulders never stopped shaking. However, Yarwood admitted that he was completely stumped by Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader.



A decade later Michael Foot, the Labour leader, with his duffle coat and untamed shock of hair, was an easy target — although perhaps "target" is not the right word, for Yarwood seldom if ever took aim in a barbed way. Neil Kinnock was more of a challenge but Yarwood soon "got" him, as he did Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan. He wisely left Margaret Thatcher to others.

Yarwood was said to be the first to mimic royalty on television with a youthful impersonation of Prince Charles, who had approached him at a garden party and said: "I hope you're not going to start bloody well doing me!" He duly did, with a portrayal that made Diana, Princess of Wales, a fan. She told Yarwood that she had "laughed till I cried" at a sketch in which the entertainer exaggerated Charles's received vowels.

Caricatures of television personalities were a key part of Yarwood's repertoire, from Malcolm Muggeridge's furrowed brow to Patrick Moore's eccentrically boyish enthusiasm on *The Sky At Night*. He also captured Russell Harty's camp mannerisms and did a splendidly observed Michael Parkinson (obituary, August 17), who was apparently unaware of his tendency to scratch his ear and rub his nose while interviewing until he saw Yarwood's imitation.

Then there was his Hughie Green, the presenter of the TV show *Opportunity Knocks*, whose tag line "I mean that most sincerely, folks" remains the subject of some controversy. Did Yarwood copy it from Green or was it vice versa? So convincing was the caricature that nobody was quite certain. Max Bygraves' "I want to tell you a story" was another example of a phrase where the truth of who had said it first became blurred. The term "Yarwoodism" subsequently came to be applied to any phrase popularly attributed to someone who had not actually said it.

Other subjects for Yarwood's inimitable style of mimicry included Brian Clough, the rugby league commentator Eddie Waring with his "up and under" catchphrase, Cliff Richard and even fictional TV characters such as Warren Mitchell's Alf Garnett and Peter Falk's American detective Columbo.

When Yarwood started out, mimicry was considered a novelty turn in the same category as ventriloquism, according to Rory Bremner, who was one of many inspired to become an impersonator by Yarwood's shows. Bremner called him "the Guv'nor", crediting him with single-handedly "propelling impressionists up the bill" and promoting the art of mimicry from music hall act to primetime television fare.

After his television debut at the age of 22, the lack of competition and his obvious talent meant that Yarwood's rise was swift. He became a regular on ITV's *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* and the annual *Royal Variety Performance*. By 1967 he had his own series and his shows, such as *Will The Real Mike Yarwood Stand Up?* and *Mike Yarwood In Persons*, were a constant presence on British television for the best part of two decades. At the height of his career he was capturing an audience of 20 million, peaking on December 25, 1977, when 21.4 million tuned in, the largest Christmas Day audience for any show in television history.

Yet behind his many faces, there was much personal turmoil. "You'd do a photo call in the morning, a radio show and then a performance in the evening, and I hated it. I couldn't stand the pace," he said. "My fondest memories are when I was the supporting act. When I was doing *The Mike Yarwood Show*, I'd walk into the television studio and see all these people working on one project, all because of me, and I wanted to run away."

He had always enjoyed a drink and as the pressure mounted he increasingly turned to the bottle for comfort. "I was constantly working and spent my spare time drinking. Just being who I was was too much for me," he told The Sunday Times in 2007. By the late 1980s his alcoholism had started to affect his work, and his television career came to an abrupt halt in 1988 when Thames Television decided not to renew his contract. His act, it was said, had not developed sufficiently to meet the challenge of a younger crop of impressionists, Bremner among them, although Yarwood thought it might have been different if he had been able to stop drinking.

After so long at the top he found it hard to adjust to the declining fortunes of his career and suffered an identity crisis. As his daughter Clare put it: "He was famous from a very young age, so when it all stopped and he was no longer a performer, there was this big question: 'If I'm not Mike Yarwood, who am I?'" The answer was to stop drinking, which he finally did in 1991. The cruel paradox was that he knew he could only make the change once he was no longer required to perform. "I didn't start to feel really relaxed until I stopped working," he said. "I still miss the business — I don't want to talk about anything else. I just wasn't cut out to be in it."

He also blamed his alcoholism for the break-up of his marriage to Sandra Burville, a dancer who he married in 1969. "I wasn't a monster, but I was bad-tempered and a control freak," he said. "Sandra wanted me to do what Mr Nine-to-Five did — to take the children out and go to the supermarket, where I would be constantly recognised. I had a tendency to say: 'Oh, show business involves so much pressure …' but it was my drinking that was causing problems."

Their two daughters, Charlotte and Clare, a jewellery designer, survive him.

He was born Michael Edward Yarwood in 1941 in Bredbury, Cheshire, the son of Bridget and Wilfred Yarwood, a fitter. He failed his 11-plus and went to Bredbury Secondary Modern School. As a child he had taken to mimicry to mask an innate shyness — he later confessed that he occasionally vomited with nerves before appearing on stage — and at school he entertained his fellow pupils by mimicking the teachers.

After leaving school at 15 he became a dispatch clerk with a mail order company in Manchester. Sacked for a minor misdemeanour, he took a job with a wholesale clothing firm and tried to escape the menial grind with a football trial with Oldham Athletic — although he was a lifelong fan of Stockport County, of which he later became a director.

The trial led nowhere, as did singing with a pop group, so he entered a pub talent competition as a solo stand-up entertainer with a mix of gags and impressions. Although he only came third, it was enough to get him engagements in the local pubs and clubs and he was soon sufficiently established to turn professional.

When television closed its doors on him in 1988 he toured as a stage actor in Ray Cooney's farce *One For the Pot*, in which he played three brothers, but was forced to leave the show after collapsing from exhaustion. He was diagnosed with an anxiety neurosis that rendered him afraid to go on stage.

Plans to return to television as a talk show presenter came to nothing and in 1990 he was taken ill while appearing in cabaret in Los Angeles. Later that year he suffered a heart attack, which provided the trigger for him to stop drinking.

There was the flicker of a comeback when he performed a rather good impersonation of John Major in the 1993 *Royal Variety Show* but it failed to revive his career.

His last years were spent at the Royal Variety Charity's nursing home, Brinsworth House, in Twickenham, south-west London. His final impersonations were done purely to entertain his grandchildren. Needless to say, they fell about laughing.

Mike Yarwood OBE, comedian and impressionist, was born on June 14, 1941. He died of undisclosed causes on September 8, 2023, aged 82

Register

Mangosuthu Buthelezi

Controversial Zulu leader and politician who played a polarising role in South Africa's transition from apartheid

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu prince, was one of South Africa's most controversial and divisive political figures both during and after the era of apartheid.

After becoming disillusioned with the African National Congress (ANC), he founded Inkatha, a Zulu political and cultural movement that would become embroiled in bloody conflicts with the ANC in the 1980s and 1990s. When Buthelezi agreed to lead a Zulu "homeland" created by the apartheid regime, many black nationalists saw him as a stooge and a collaborator who was exploiting the ideological system for his own ends, to build on his power base among the Zulu people.

At the difficult and delicate negotiations preceding South Africa's multiracial democratic elections which led to majority-rule government in 1994, his brinkmanship and threats to boycott the ballot — relenting only days before the vote — infuriated both white and black politicians to such an extent that some of them never forgave him.

After seemingly burying the hatchet with the governing ANC party, he served as minister for home affairs in Nelson Mandela's government while continuing to oversee KwaZulu-Natal. As tensions simmered in the province, Buthelezi's self-importance and a sensitivity amounting to paranoia remained destabilising factors in South Africa's national politics. He had friends abroad in high places — being an articulate black leader of a noble and respected African tribe with anti-communist and pro-free market views led to notable invitations from western society — but at home, outside his own tribe, he was a far less welcome presence.

In the 1964 film Zulu he played King Cetshwayo, his great-grandfather

AP

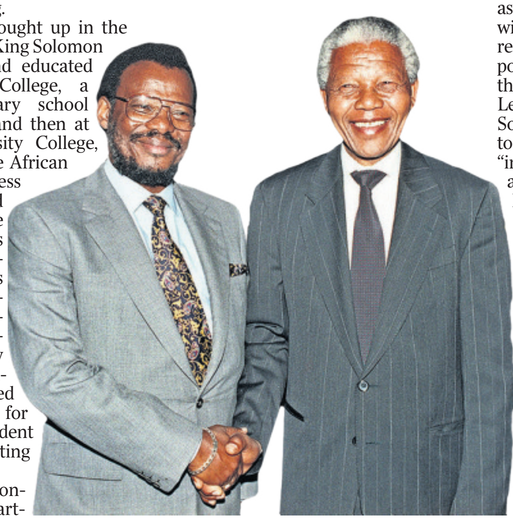


Buthelezi in traditional Zulu dress in 2009; despite bitter conflict with the ANC, he served under Nelson Mandela, below

Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi was born in August 1928 at the heart of the Zulu royal house. His mother, Princess Constance Magogo, was one of the Zulu king's sisters (and a grand-daughter of King Cetshwayo, the monarch who had routed the British army at the Battle of Isandlwana in 1879). His father was Chief Mathole Buthelezi, the head of the Buthelezi clan, who were traditionally advisers to the king. Years later, Mangosuthu would delight in playing the role of his great-grandfather in the 1964 film *Zulu* starring Michael Caine.

When he was 14, he was told that his father had died and in keeping with Zulu tradition, he stabbed the ground with a spear, an act to show where the grave should be dug.

Buthelezi was brought up in the traditional *kraal* of King Solomon at Dlamahlahla and educated first at Adams College, a Christian missionary school south of Durban, and then at Fort Hare University College, where he joined the African National Congress Youth League and met several of the nationalist leaders who would be prominent in the years ahead. Robert Mugabe, a young firebrand from Zimbabwe, was a fellow student. In 1950 Buthelezi was expelled from Fort Hare for organising a student boycott of the visiting governor-general.



After these early confrontations with apartheid, the young graduate had to choose between a career as a lawyer and the inheritance of the chieftainship, which he believed to be his right. He worked in Durban as a clerk in the Department of Bantu Administration while waiting for the government to confirm his position as chief of the Buthelezi clan, an appointment that came through only in 1953 and under condition of a four-year probationship.

Thereafter he fought a long (and eventually successful) battle in the courts against his half-brother's efforts to oust him. The family dispute contributed to arguments in the 1970s when the newly installed King Goodwill Zwelithini — Buthelezi's nephew — tried to challenge his position and authority.

Once confirmed as chief, Buthelezi rapidly sought to establish himself as a national, not just a Zulu, leader in the struggle against apartheid, but certainly his methods raised many eyebrows. He appeared to co-operate with Hendrik Verwoerd's "homeland" policy. He accepted the chairmanship of the Zulu Regional Authority in 1959 — a stage in the government's "bantustan" policy of "separate development" — because, he claimed, he saw no alternative. In 1968 he agreed to the establishment of a Zululand Territorial Authority, becoming the chief executive of the authority in 1970.

He argued that, since there was no hope of victory in a direct confrontation with the white government in Pretoria, the wisest course was to participate in the only machinery available and so to erode the homeland policy from within. For this he was excoriated by fellow African nationalists as a "black puppet" and a sell-out.

"If you want to fight your enemy you do not accept from him the unloaded of his two guns and then challenge him to a duel," the activist Steve Biko remarked before his murder in 1977.

Throughout the 1970s Buthelezi asserted that, while he would co-operate with the development of KwaZulu, requiring the integration of various pockets of land throughout Natal and the establishment in 1972 of a KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, he rejected the South African government's intention to turn KwaZulu into a sovereign and "independent" state. In 1976 he became, and would remain, chief minister of KwaZulu, which after apartheid became KwaZulu-Natal province.

His originally cordial relations with the ANC began to deteriorate, in particular because he rejected the ANC exile-leadership's decision to adopt the "armed struggle". He argued for dialogue with the white National Party government, but John Vorster, the prime minister, and his successor, PW Botha, refused to respond.

The real break with the ANC came when Buthelezi founded his cultural-liberation movement, Inkatha, in 1975. Inkatha grew rapidly as a largely Zulu party, to the alarm of the ANC. He argued that the ANC leaders were out of touch and were also over-influenced by the white Communists among their leadership. At the same time, he continued to call on the government to remove the ban on the ANC and to release Mandela and other detained leaders.

In these years there emerged a clear ideological divide between the ANC and Inkatha, a divide that would persist: apart from the disagreement over the armed struggle, Inkatha embraced free enterprise, opposed international sanctions and disinvestment, and denounced socialism. Deteriorating relations with the ANC would eventually erupt into savage intra-tribal violence in KwaZulu and in the townships of the Reef.

A clear ideological divide emerged between his movement and the ANC

The 1983 constitutional referendum led to the formation of a broad-based, legal, pro-ANC coalition movement called the United Democratic Front (UDF), which was to widen the distance between Buthelezi and the ANC. The final straw was Buthelezi's decision in 1986 to set up his own national trade union movement, the United Workers' Union of South Africa (UWUSA), in opposition to the pro-ANC Cosatu. Black unity was thereafter in tatters.

In 1987-88 the Zulu faction killings between Inkatha and ANC followers in the countryside around Pietermaritzburg became extremely serious — the death toll was as high as 15,000 by some estimates — and from this point the animosity between Buthelezi and his ANC opposite numbers, who were just beginning to scent the possibility of defeating apartheid, hardened irretrievably.

The alleged involvement of Buthelezi in the late 1980s in Operation Marion, a South African Defence Force project to support and train Inkatha in covert actions against ANC/UDF supporters, would become a controversial topic for decades. Buthelezi always denied it, but rumours of South African government support persisted.

Eventually the evidence was overwhelming: the post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up to document abuses of the era, concluded in 1998 that members of the apartheid security forces were working with the Inkatha movement to fight the ANC; that Buthelezi had collaborated with the white regime; and that Inkatha had massacred thousands of opponents. Buthelezi challenged the findings in court, and, as a part of a 2003 settlement, the authors agreed to certain changes in its final report.

He participated in the Codesa (Convention for a Democratic South Africa) negotiations of 1991-93, which would lead to majority rule, but his attitude towards these Codesa talks drove many South Africans to total exasperation. He was recalcitrant, intransigent and threatening, frequently storming out of the talks.

On the eve of the April 1994 nationwide polls, he was demanding that the election be postponed, apparently in the belief that it could not proceed without him. He called for international arbitration, which never got beyond the first hurdle. His bluff was called and Inkatha scraped into the process at the last minute.

Buthelezi entered the third phase of his career as minister of home affairs in the government of national unity. In these first years of majority rule, President Mandela showed that he was anxious to placate him, but not surprisingly there continued to be tensions with other ANC ministers. When Mandela left office in 1999, Buthelezi retained the home affairs portfolio under President Thabo Mbeki until 2004.

After the 2004 elections, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), as it was rebranded, returned to the opposition benches and five years later it lost electoral ground against the ANC's new leader, Jacob Zuma, who was himself a Zulu.

Buthelezi stepped down as leader of the IFP in 2019 but remained a member of the South African parliament and was a pivotal figure in the Zulu royal family succession battle that followed the death of King Goodwill (obituary, March 13, 2021). His preferred successor, Misuzulu kaZwelithini, was crowned king last year.

In 1952 he had married Irene Mzila, a nursing student from Johannesburg. His father was said to have had about 40 wives but Buthelezi resisted traditionalist Zulu pressure to take further brides. He and Princess Irene, as she became, had three sons and five daughters and remained married until her death in 2019. Three of their children survive: Prince Ntuthukoyezwe Zuzifa, Princess Phumzile Nokuphiwa and Princess Sibuyiselwe Angela.

At the family home in Ulundi he kept an extensive collection of classical music as well as the complete collection of Frank Sinatra albums.

Buthelezi may have had intelligence, energy and ambition but he was also autocratic, prickly, near-paranoid, over-sensitive to criticism, and impossibly verbose (one of his parliamentary speeches was 427 pages long and took more than two weeks to deliver). To the last it was said that he was "capable of switching between unbridled charm and ruthless bellicosity".

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Zulu leader and South African politician, was born on August 27, 1928. He died on September 9, 2023, aged 95

Law Report

When doctors should inform patients of possible treatments

Supreme Court
September 11, 2023

McCulloch and others v Forth Valley Health Board

Before Lord Reed, Lord Hodge, Lord Kitchin, Lord Hamblen and Lord Burrows.
[2023] UKSC 26
Judgment July 12, 2023

A doctor was not in breach of the duty of reasonable care in not informing a patient about a possible alternative treatment when her opinion that the alternative was not a reasonable treatment option for the patient was supported by a responsible body of medical opinion.

The Supreme Court so held in dismissing an appeal by the widow and other family members of the deceased, Neil McCulloch, from the decision of the First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (Lady Dorrian, Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Menzies and Lord Pentland) (2021 SLT 695) upholding the decision of the Lord Ordinary, Lord Tyre ([2020] CSOH 40) who had dismissed their claim against Forth Valley Health Board for damages for negligently causing the death of the deceased.

Robert Weir KC and **Lauren Sutherland KC** for the deceased's family; **Una Doherty KC**, **David Myhill** and **Ewen Campbell** for the health board; **Roddy Dunlop KC** for the General Medical Council, intervening. The British Medical Association intervened by way of written submissions only.

LORD HAMBLEN and LORD BURROWS, with whom the other members of the court agreed, said that the legal test for establishing negligence by a doctor in diagnosis or treatment was whether the doctor had acted in accordance with a practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of medical opinion. That would be referred to, for shorthand, as the "professional practice test".

That test was most clearly laid down in *Bolam v Friern Hospital Management Committee* ([1957] 1 WLR 582) and was consistent with the leading Scottish case of *Hunter v Hanley* (1955 SC 200). A qualification of that test was that a court might, in a rare case, reject the professional opinion if it was incapable of withstanding logical analysis.

In *Montgomery v Lanarkshire Health Board* ([2015] AC 1430) it was decided that the professional practice test did not apply to a doctor's advisory role in discussing with the patient any recommended treatment and possible alternatives, and the risks of injury that might be involved.

The performance of that advisory role was not a matter of purely professional judgment because respect had to be shown for the right of patients to decide on the risks to their health that they were willing to run. The doctor was therefore under a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that the patient was aware of any material risks involved in any recommended treatment, and of any reasonable alternative or variant treatments.

The courts were therefore imposing a standard of reasonable care in respect of a doctor's advisory role that might go beyond what would be considered proper by a responsible body of medical opinion.

The main issue which arose on the present appeal was what legal test should be applied to the assessment as to whether an alternative treatment was reasonable and required to be discussed with the patient.

More specifically, did the doctor in the present case fall below the required standard of reasonable care by failing to make a patient aware of an alternative treatment in a situation when the doctor's opinion was that the alternative treatment was not reasonable and that opinion was supported by a responsible body of medical opinion?

The Inner House and the Lord Ordinary held that the professional practice test applied. Whether an alternative treatment was reasonable depended upon the exercise of professional skill and judgment and a treatment which, applying the professional practice test, was considered not to be reasonable did not have to be discussed with the patient.

The deceased's family contended that that was wrong in law. They accepted that whether the doctor should know of the existence of an alternative treatment was governed by the professional practice test.

However, they submitted that whether the alternative treatments so identified were reasonable depended on the circumstances, objectives and values of the individual patient and could not be judged simply by the view of the doctor offering the treatment even though that view was supported by a responsible body of medical opinion.

It was alleged that the deceased's death was caused by the negligence of Dr Labinjoh, a consultant cardiologist, for whose acts and omissions the health board was vicariously liable. In particular, it was alleged that (i) the cardiologist should have advised the deceased of the option of treatment with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) (such as ibuprofen) for pericarditis; (ii) had such advice been given, the deceased would have taken the NSAID; (iii) had he taken the NSAID, he would not have died.

The correct legal test to be applied to the assessment as to whether an alternative treatment was reasonable and required to be discussed with the patient was the professional practice test of whether the doctor had acted in accordance with a practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of medical opinion.

On the facts of the present case, as the cardiologist had taken the view that prescribing NSAIDs was not a reasonable alternative treatment because the deceased had no relevant pain and there was no clear diagnosis of pericarditis, and because that view was supported by a responsible body of medical opinion (as established by the evidence), there was no breach of the duty of care to inform required by *Montgomery*.

No error of law had been made by the lower courts and there was no basis for going behind their decision reached on the evidence that the cardiologist had not been negligent.

Taking a hypothetical example, the court regarded the law as working as follows.

A doctor would first seek to provide a diagnosis, which might initially be a provisional one, having, for example, examined the patient, conducted tests and had discussions with the patient. Say that, in respect of that diagnosis, there were ten possible treatment options and that there was a responsible body of medical opinion that would regard each of the ten as possible treatment options.

Then, say that the doctor, exercising his or her clinical judgment, and supported by a responsible body of medical opinion, decided that only four of them were reasonable. The doctor was not negligent by failing to inform the patient about the other six even though they were possible alternative treatments. The narrowing down from possible alternative treatments to reasonable alternative treatments was an exercise of clinical judgment to which the professional practice test should be applied.

The duty of reasonable care would then require the doctor to inform the patient not only of the treatment option that the doctor was recommending but also of the other three reasonable alternative treatment options, plus no treatment if that was a reasonable alternative option, indicating their respective advantages and disadvantages and the material risks involved in such treatment options.

It was important to stress that it was not being suggested that the doctor could simply inform the patient about the treatment option or options that the doctor himself or herself preferred. Rather the doctor's duty of care was to inform the patient of all reasonable treatment options applying the professional practice test.

It would constitute a significant and unwarranted extension of the case law if the duty to take reasonable care to ensure that the patient was aware of any reasonable or variant treatments meant all such treatments and that the court was to determine what constituted a reasonable alternative treatment.

If the court were to reject the professional practice test in determining reasonable alternative treatments, there would be an unfortunate conflict in the exercise of the doctor's role in that the law would be requiring a doctor to inform a patient about an alternative medical treatment which the doctor, exercising professional skill and judgment, would not consider to be a reasonable medical option.

Also, to require a doctor to outline the risks of all possible alternative treatments, even those considered not to be reasonable, was unlikely to be in the patient's best interest and might impair good decision-making. In addition, it would render a doctor's task inappropriately complex and confusing and might lead to defensive medicine.

Solicitors: **Drummond Miller LLP**, Edinburgh; **NHS Central Legal Office**, Edinburgh; **GMC Legal**, Manchester.

Court Circular

Balmoral Castle
9th September, 2023
The Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP (First Minister of the Scottish Government) and Mrs Yousaf have arrived at the Castle.

The Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP was received in audience by The King this evening.

Kensington Palace
9th September, 2023
The Princess of Wales, Patron, Rugby Football Union, this evening attended the Rugby World Cup Pool Match between England and Argentina at Stade de Marseille, Marseille, France, and was received by Mr Theo Rycroft (Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy in Paris).

Balmoral Castle
10th September, 2023
Divine Service was held in Crathie Parish Church this morning.

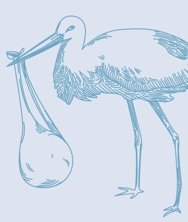
The Reverend Moira McDonald preached the Sermon.

The Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP (First Minister of the Scottish Government) and Mrs Yousaf have left the Castle.

Kensington Palace
10th September, 2023
The Prince of Wales, Patron, Welsh Rugby Union, this evening attended the Rugby World Cup Pool Match between Wales and Fiji at Stade de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, and was received by His Majesty's Ambassador to the French Republic (Dame Menna Rawlings).

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First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. Ask God to help and bless them all, and tell God how thankful you are for each of them. Pray for kings and others in power, so we may live quiet and peaceful lives as we worship and honour God.
1 Timothy 2.1-2 (CEV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

HELBY on 10th August 2023 to Sarah J. S. Helby and Mark A. Jackson, a son, Albert Bailey Hasler Jackson Helby, brother to Henry. Grandson to Philip and Mary Helby.

Deaths

BEASANT John, of Bridgwater, passed away peacefully on 26th August 2023, aged 82. A much-loved friend to all. A funeral service will be held at St Mary's Church, Bridgwater, on Friday 22nd September 2023 at 1pm followed by cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Gurkha Welfare Trust can be made online at www.hbiffen.co.uk or sent to H Biffen & Sons Ltd. 32 Wembdon Road, Bridgwater, tel: 01278 423333.

FALCON April (née Lambert) died peacefully on 6th September 2023, aged 89. Widow of Michael and much-loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. A funeral service will be held on 4th October at St Remigius Church, Hethersett at 2pm.

HAMSHAW THOMAS Catherine Mary (née Cox) on 23rd August 2023 in Sherborne. Loving and beloved wife of Christopher, mother of Anne, Hugh, Charles and John, grandmother of Emile, Jack, Billy, Cecily, Joe, Jeremy, Ivan and Gus and great-grandmother of Florence.

MILNE Kathleen (née Nerrie) passed away peacefully on 23rd August 2023, aged 101. The funeral takes place on Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 1pm at St Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot, followed by private cremation.

WELCH
Sir John Welch Bt. on 5th September 2023, aged 90. Loving husband of Kerry, father of Margi, Jane and James, and grandfather to eight, passed away after a short illness at his home of forty years. As he requested, a service will be held with close family only. A memorial service to be announced. No flowers please, donations to Royal Trinity Hospice www.royaltrinityhospice.london /appeal/sir-john-welch

WOON Christopher died peacefully on 8th August 2023, aged 81. Much-loved husband of Gill and father of David. Funeral to take place on 20th September at Islington and St Pancras Crematorium, High Road, East Finchley, at 2pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to RNLI or the Red Cross.

Memorial Services

PROUDMAN The Hon Dame Sonia Proudman DBE at Lincoln's Inn Chapel, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A on 11th October 2023 at 5pm.

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School Notices

ST EDWARD'S, OXFORD
Autumn Term began at St Edward's on 6 September 2023.

The Heads of School are George Freeland (Field House) and Prisca Olagunju (Oakthorpe).

The following awards have been made to pupils joining the School this academic year:

13+ Scholarships, Exhibitions and Awards
Academic Scholarships: Harry Bewes (Summer Fields); Mary Chirnside (The Dragon); Elliott Grounds (Summer Fields).
Academic Exhibitions: Isabella Frieda (The Dragon); Gabriela Nagadya (The Ursuline Academy); Ella Rooney (St Andrew's Berkshire).
Music Scholarships: Christopher Jordan-Briggs (The Dragon); Tristan Reeves-Toy (Eagle House); Leo Sarooshi (The Dragon).
Music Exhibitions: Harry Bewes (Summer Fields).
Arts Awards for Art: Poppy Harris (Cheam); Lara Pasteur (The Dragon).
Arts Awards for Drama: Mia Burridge (The Oratory Preparatory School); Katie Gill (Belmont Preparatory School); Beatrice Owen (The Dragon); Oliver Preston (King's House School).
Arts Award for DT: Callum McPhail (Cheam)
Sports Awards: Harry Bewes (Summer Fields); Angus Danby (Winchester House); Poppy Dearden (Lambrook); Gabriella Deslandes (Godstowe); Jemima Foster (The Dragon); Nico Hartley (Magdalen College School); Isla Hooker (Godstowe); Archie Logue (Sunningdale); Lara Murphy (The Dragon); Ella Rooney (St Andrew's Berkshire); Suri Shah (previously in home education); Sebastian Watters (The Scots College, Sydney).

16+ Scholarships, Exhibitions and Awards
Academic Scholarships: Aveline Badham (St Helen's & St Katharine's); Aisling Fitzpatrick (Bedford Girls' School); Paloma Marchat (Harris Academy Bermondsey); Heather Young (Sir William Perkins' School); Veronika Zaitseva (Epsom College).
Music Scholarship: Rosie Prior (Wycombe High School).
Music Exhibitions: Alexander Mather (Salesian College, Farnborough).
Arts Award for Art: Scarlett Thompson (Cheltenham Ladies' College).
Arts Award for Dance: Ava Phillips (Queen Anne's School).
Arts Award for Drama: Olivia Jameson-Evans (Tring Park School).

Sports Awards: Lily-Rose Brepoels (Koninklijk Atheneum Etterbeek, Netherlands); Xenophon Chapman (Hereford Cathedral School); Alexander Corbett (Lord Wandsworth College); Jannik Fachat (Durham School); Felicity Fitzpatrick (Cokethorpe); Elam Hughes (North Halifax Grammar School); Isabel Johnson (Westfield School); Alexander Mather (Salesian College, Farnborough).
Full details of the scholarship and entrance exam dates for 2024 entry can be found on the School's website (www.stedwardsoxford.org).

Term ends on 9 December.

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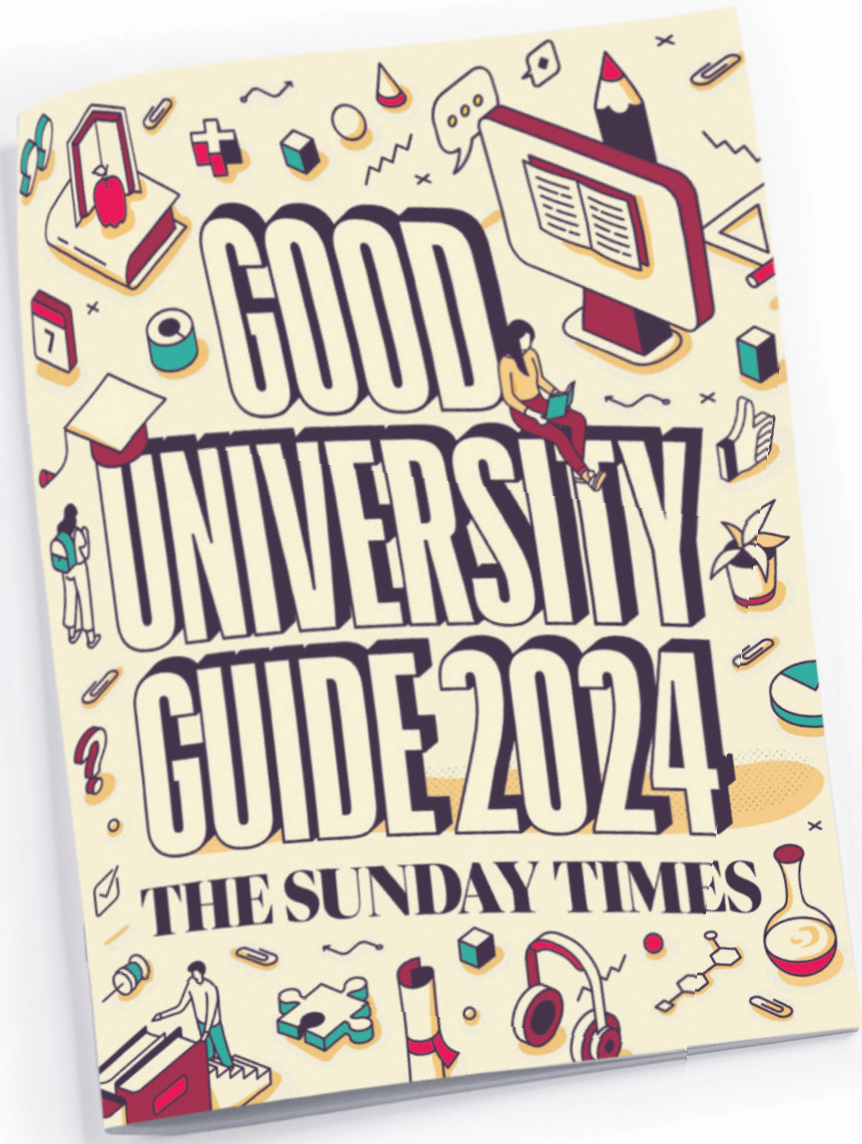
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Sat 18 **Cádiz, Spain** (depart late night)

Mon 20 **Algiers, Algeria**

Wed 22 **La Goulette, Tunisia**

Thu 23 **Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy**

Sat 25 **Cartagena, Spain** (depart early pm)

Sun 26 **Tangier, Morocco** (depart early pm)
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Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder
*=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	20	S	0.0	7.1
Aberporth	21	R	0.0	5.8
Anglesey	24	S	1.4	4.3
Aviemore	21	PC	0.0	5.3
Barnstaple	21	C	3.0	**
Bedford	29	S	2.0	**
Belfast	22	PC	1.8	5.1
Birmingham	23	M	0.6	**
Bournemouth	21	R	2.0	10.6
Bridlington	24	S	0.0	**
Bristol	20	C	1.2	10.5
Camborne	22	C	1.0	9.9
Cardiff	22	R	1.0	6.3
Edinburgh	21	PC	1.4	6.6
Eskdalemuir	21	S	0.0	3.8
Glasgow	20	C	1.4	0.5
Hereford	21	PC	3.8	**
Herstmonceux	28	C	0.0	9.1
Ipswich	28	S	0.0	10.7
Isle of Man	21	C	2.0	4.1
Isle of Wight	22	C	1.8	**
Jersey	**	**	**	**
Keswick	22	C	2.6	**
Kinloss	17	B	2.4	7.3
Leeds	21	R	0.0	**
Lerwick	15	C	1.2	3.3
Leuchars	22	C	0.0	8.2
Lincoln	27	PC	0.0	9.7
Liverpool	23	R	0.0	**
London	30	PC	0.0	10.8
Lyneham	22	C	1.2	10.9
Manchester	25	PC	1.2	7.0
Margate	28	**	0.0	0.0
Milford Haven	19	R	3.2	**
Newcastle	23	S	19.6	**
Nottingham	24	PC	0.0	8.6
Orkney	15	C	1.0	5.7
Oxford	26	C	1.8	**
Plymouth	24	S	5.6	**
Portland	20	R	0.4	**
Scilly, St Mary's	19	R	0.0	**
Shoreham	30	C	0.0	10.3
Shrewsbury	23	M	13.2	5.3
Snowdonia	22	S	0.4	**
Southend	24	S	0.0	10.9
South Uist	14	R	17.6	**
Stornoway	14	C	4.4	0.0
Tiree	17	C	1.4	0.7
Whitehaven	23	D	29.6	1.5
Wick	13	R	1.6	**
Yeovilton	22	R	2.4	7.4

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	26	PC	Madeira	25	PC
Amsterdam	30	S	Madrid	25	PC
Athens	26	PC	Malaga	27	PC
Auckland	17	B	Mallorca	29	PC
Bahrain	40	S	Malta	30	S
Bangkok	31	PC	Melbourne	14	B
Barbados	32	PC	Mexico City	24	PC
Barcelona	25	PC	Miami	28	**
Beijing	23	PC	Milan	28	S
Beirut	30	B	Mombasa	30	PC
Belgrade	29	S	Montreal	21	B
Berlin	30	S	Moscow	13	DU
Bermuda	29	B	Mumbai	30	**
Bordeaux	30	S	Munich	27	S
Brussels	31	S	Nairobi	24	PC
Bucharest	26	S	Naples	33	S
Budapest	29	S	New Orleans	32	S
Buenos Aires	20	S	New York	28	B
Cairo	35	S	Nice	26	S
Calcutta	33	**	Nicosia	33	PC
Canberra	13	S	Oslo	21	S
Cape Town	14	PC	Paris	33	S
Chicago	24	PC	Perth	22	B
Copenhagen	24	PC	Prague	26	S
Corfu	32	S	Reykjavik	10	B
Delhi	27	M	Riga	22	S
Dubai	38	PC	Rio de Janeiro	33	S
Dublin	19	SH	Riyadh	44	S
Faro	25	PC	Rome	31	S
Florence	32	S	San Francisco	22	PC
Frankfurt	29	S	Santiago	15	B
Geneva	28	PC	São Paulo	26	B
Gibraltar	26	PC	Seoul	28	S
Helsinki	20	PC	Seychelles	29	PC
Hong Kong	26	SH	Singapore	26	SH
Honolulu	28	B	St Petersburg	22	S
Istanbul	28	PC	Stockholm	21	S
Jerusalem	32	PC	Sydney	18	S
Johannesburg	26	S	Tel Aviv	32	PC
Kuala Lumpur	32	PC	Tenerife	27	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	32	PC
Lanzarote	26	PC	Vancouver	20	PC
Las Palmas	28	PC	Venice	28	S
Lima	20	**	Vienna	28	S
Lisbon	22	SH	Warsaw	26	S
Los Angeles	27	PC	Washington	32	B
Luxor	40	S	Zurich	28	PC

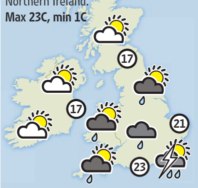
Five days ahead

Turning gradually fresher but with some rain or showers at times

Tomorrow

Rain or showers spreading southeastwards across England and Wales, heavy and thundery in places. Drier with sunny spells in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

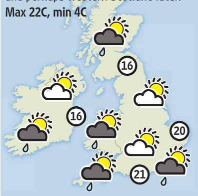
Max 23C, min 1C



Wednesday

A few isolated showers, but many places will be dry with sunny spells. Rain may spread into parts of Ireland and perhaps western Scotland later.

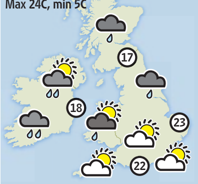
Max 22C, min 4C



Thursday

Rather cloudy and breezy with outbreaks of rain in northern and western areas, but largely dry in the south and east.

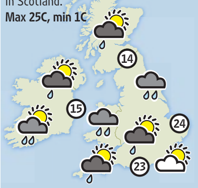
Max 24C, min 5C



Friday

Dry and warm in the southeast, elsewhere cloud and rain spreading erratically southeastwards and followed by sunny spells and showers in Scotland.

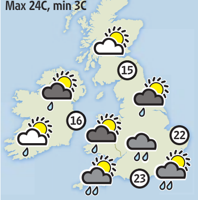
Max 25C, min 1C



Saturday

Some uncertainty in the detail, but the risk of some rain or showers in places, interspersed with sunny spells.

Max 24C, min 3C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

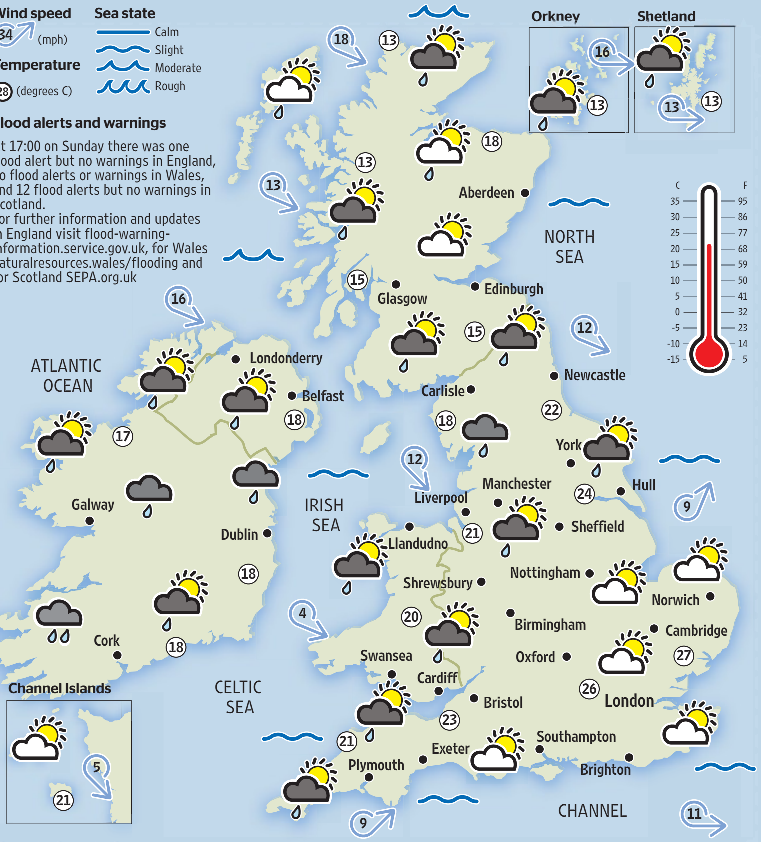
Wind speed
34 (mph)

Temperature
28 (degrees C)

Sea state
Calm
Slight
Moderate
Rough

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Sunday there was one flood alert but no warnings in England, no flood alerts or warnings in Wales, and 12 flood alerts but no warnings in Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk



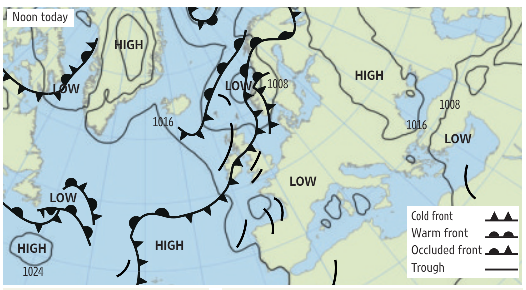
General situation: Rain or showers spreading erratically southeastwards.
SE Eng, London, E Anglia: Fog will break up to leave a largely dry day with patchy cloud and sunny spells. Small chance of showery rain in the far southeast. Light to moderate west or southwesterly winds. Maximum 27C (81F), minimum 12C (54F).
Wales, SW Eng, Midlands, E Eng: Large amounts of cloud at times, but some bright or sunny spells. Scattered showers are likely, locally heavy and thundery. Light to moderate west or southwesterly winds. Maximum 24C (75F), minimum 10C (50F).
NW Eng, Cen N Eng, NE Eng: Cloudy at first with some patchy rain, mainly on western hills, becoming drier and brighter for a time before further rain arrives later. Light to moderate west or northwesterly winds. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 8C (46F).
SW Scotland, Lake District, Borders, Republic of Ireland: Rather cloudy with patchy rain, becoming more persistent in places during the afternoon. Some brightness later in the day in the north. Winds will be light to moderate west or northwesterly. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 5C (41F).
Glasgow, Edinburgh & Dundee, Argyll, Aberdeen, Cen Highland, Moray Firth, NW Scotland, NE Scotland, N Isles, N Ireland: Sunny spells and scattered showers, most frequent in the west. Light to moderate west or northwesterly winds. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 3C (37F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	--:--	--	12:37	3.6
Avonmouth	05:29	9.8	17:52	10.5
Belfast	10:07	2.9	22:11	3.3
Cardiff	05:29	9.2	17:51	9.9
Devonport	04:10	4.3	16:27	4.6
Dover	10:01	5.6	22:39	5.7
Dublin	10:42	3.4	22:46	3.7
Falmouth	03:52	4.0	16:09	4.4
Greenock	11:37	2.8	23:26	3.1
Harwich	10:10	3.4	22:44	3.6
Holyhead	09:30	4.6	21:40	4.9
Hull	04:35	6.0	17:18	6.0
Leith	01:05	4.5	13:48	4.6
Liverpool	10:04	7.6	22:19	8.0
London Bridge	--:--	--	12:23	5.7
Lowestoft	07:59	2.3	21:07	2.3
Milford Haven	04:59	5.4	17:21	5.8
Morecambe	10:16	7.5	22:31	8.0
Newhaven	09:57	5.5	22:15	5.5
Newquay	03:54	5.5	16:15	5.9
Oban	05:20	3.0	17:14	3.3
Penzance	03:22	4.3	15:44	4.7
Portsmouth	10:56	4.0	22:30	4.0
Shoreham	10:13	5.0	22:31	5.1
Southampton	08:55	3.7	21:11	3.7
Swansea	04:56	7.1	17:19	7.6
Tees	02:10	4.6	14:49	4.7
Weymouth	05:28	1.4	17:35	1.6

Noon today



Synoptic situation

A cold front will move erratically southeastwards across northern areas, bringing thick cloud and outbreaks of rain, mostly on western hills. It will turn fresher behind this front across Scotland and Northern Ireland with a few showers. Remaining very warm in the southeast, with scattered heavy showers in parts of England and Wales.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Writtle, Essex, 32.2C
Coldest: Bealach Na Ba, Highlands, 7.4C
Wettest: Shap, Cumbria, 29.6mm
Sunniest: Coventry, 11.1hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 06.28
Sun sets: 19.25
Moon rises: 01.56
Moon sets: 18.44
New moon: September 15

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	20:09-06:02
Belfast	20:21-06:20
Birmingham	20:03-06:06
Cardiff	20:07-06:12
Exeter	20:08-06:14
Glasgow	20:16-06:12
Liverpool	20:08-06:10
London	19:55-06:00
Manchester	20:05-06:07
Newcastle	20:05-06:03
Norwich	19:51-05:53
Penzance	20:15-06:23
Sheffield	20:02-06:04

Weather Eye

Paul Simons



This month's remarkable heatwave reached a peak of 33.2C at Kew Gardens in west London on Saturday, the highest temperature of the year so far and the sixth day in a row over 30C.

One casualty of the heat was the Sphinx, a patch of snow that can sometimes survive all year. The snow shelters high up in a hollow on Braeriach, Britain's third highest mountain, in the Scottish Highlands, but on September 6 the snow enthusiast Iain Cameron reported that the Sphinx had melted away. "It is with a heavy heart I report that as of today the Sphinx has gone again. A sad day," he announced.

Cameron regularly monitors snow patches that survive long after most snow in the Highlands has vanished. Often these hardy patches shrink to mere blobs of dirty snow, sheltering in cold nooks and crannies above about 900m in the mountains. But in recent years the Sphinx and other snow patches have been fighting a losing battle against rising temperatures, and the pace of the snow melt is increasing. "What 100 years ago was considered to be a permanent feature of our hills has vanished for the tenth time [in records going back hundreds of years]. Five of these have been since 2017," Cameron wrote.

It is difficult to believe that tracts of snow were almost a permanent sight in the Highlands. Visitors often admired the sight of the mountains capped with snow all summer, a scene described by the writers Daniel Defoe, John Keats and Robbie Burns. "Summits were continually covered with snow, and perhaps have been so for many ages," Defoe wrote in 1726.

The snow could be deep and a gentlemen's climbing party in August 1786 described how they stopped for lunch at a high ridge "depositing our champagne, porter etc. in one of the large snow drifts". And there was even a tradition for farming tenants in the Highlands to go out on to the mountains in the summer to collect buckets of snow so they could keep their food and wine cellar chilled.

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 777675

8am to 5pm daily (calls are charged at £1.55 plus network extras)

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OXFORDSHIRE

Sport

Test triple centurion Nair shows his class on Northants debut

Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

Edgbaston (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss): Northants have scored 200 runs for five wickets against Warwickshire

County Championship
Neville Scott

It was Bill Clinton's knack for repeated survival that gained him the tag "The Comeback Kid". Were Northamptonshire to escape relegation from Division One this year, a fate seemingly awaiting them since April, they would make the former US president look merely like an abject quitter.

Bottom from the middle of May, not only do Northamptonshire need to make up at least 26 points on Kent and Middlesex but their remaining two games are against the only sides, Surrey and Essex, who can take the title. At least Emilio Gay and Karun Nair, digging deep, uncovered much pride until a less encouraging last hour.

Gay, a fluent left-handed off driver of high talent from Alastair Cook's old school, Bedford — who could make a fine future captain for the county if they can keep him — made 77 and Nair, a less tall right-hander playing beautifully off his pads, scored 78. From 24 for two after 45 minutes, the pair added 147.

Recommended by his Indian compatriot Prithvi Shaw who, before a serious knee injury, lit up Northampton last month with a One-Day Cup 244, Nair had himself famously made an unbeaten 303 against England. He was only the third batsman ever to convert a maiden Test hundred into a triple.

That same year, 2016, Nair survived a boat capsize in which six people drowned during a festival in Kerala. Though unable to swim, he stayed afloat long enough for others to save him. "I hope I can score runs and get three wins for the county. Anything beyond that is beyond my control," he said previously. His debut innings certainly had the measure of Warwickshire.

Warwickshire have gone from prime Championship contenders to mid-table drift. But in 11 balls, the admirable Olly Hannon-Dalby finally dislodged Gay and made Rob Keogh play on for nine before Nair edged behind, upper cutting at a short ball from Ed Barnard ten overs before the close.

BARRY MITCHELL/SHUTTERSTOCK



Lancashire's Will Williams celebrates knocking back Joe Cracknell's off stump

Crawley in the runs again

Neville Scott

Zak Crawley continued his outstanding form at the head of the order for England in the Ashes by leading Kent's bid to avoid relegation from Division One.

Stroking his way to 158 from 153 balls until caught and bowled by Nottinghamshire's leg spinner Calvin Harrison, he dominated stands of 95 for the first wicket and then 153 from 34 overs for the second.

On April 22, Crawley had made 170 in 183 balls against Essex and, with two fifties in ten other innings this season, he now has 561 championship runs at 46.75 to complement his Ashes tally of 480 at 53.33. In a sequence of four innings from the hundred that seemed destined to set up victory until the Manchester rain intervened in the fourth Test, his scores have been 189 from 182 balls, 22, 73 and now 158.

Kent finished the day on 387 for four.

Robson digs in but gets little support

Lancashire v Middlesex

Emirates Old Trafford (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Middlesex have scored 132 runs for eight wickets against Lancashire

Paul Edwards

Rather like Northern Rail's service from Southport to Manchester, Middlesex's batting has been deeply unreliable this summer. Only two bonus points have been earned in 12 innings, a miserable record that largely explains why they are in a battle to avoid relegation with Northamptonshire and Kent.

Events at Old Trafford yesterday showed why Middlesex are in such a mess. Having opted to bat first under cloudy skies, they slumped to 19 for five against Lancashire's high-class attack.

Mark Stoneman was caught at slip by Tom Hartley off Tom Bailey for nought in the third over and nine balls later Joe Cracknell had his off stump knocked back when Will Williams brought one back inside his loose drive.

Luke Wood picked up two more wickets but resistance was eventually supplied by Sam Robson, who was unbeaten on 56 when bad light brought play to an early end. Ryan Higgins made 41 but was bowled by Williams before Tom Bailey took two wickets.

Results

Football

European Championship qualifying
Group B

Ireland	(1) **1**	**Holland**	(1) **2**
Idah 5 (pen)		Gakpo 19, Weghorst 56	

Greece 5 Gibraltar 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
France	5	5	0	0	11	0	11	15
Holland	4	3	0	1	8	5	3	9
Greece	5	3	0	2	10	5	5	9
Ireland	5	1	0	4	5	7	-2	3
Gibraltar	5	0	0	5	0	17	-17	0

Group E
Faroe Islands 0 Moldova 1; Albania 2 Poland 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Albania	5	3	1	1	8	3	5	10
Czech Republic	4	2	2	0	7	2	5	8
Moldova	5	2	2	1	5	5	0	8
Poland	5	2	0	3	6	8	-2	6
Faroe Islands	5	0	1	4	2	10	-8	1

Group G
Montenegro 2 Bulgaria 1; Lithuania 1 Serbia 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Hungary	4	3	1	0	7	1	6	10
Serbia	5	3	1	1	9	4	5	10
Montenegro	5	2	2	1	5	5	0	8
Bulgaria	5	0	2	3	3	8	-5	2
Lithuania	5	0	2	3	4	10	-6	2

Group H

Kazakhstan	(1) **1**	**N Ireland**	(0) **0**
Samorodov 27			

Finland 0 Denmark 1; San Marino 0 Slovenia 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Denmark	6	4	1	1	12	5	7	13
Slovenia	6	4	1	1	13	6	7	13
Finland	6	4	0	2	11	4	7	12
Kazakhstan	6	4	0	2	9	5	4	12
Northern Ireland	6	1	0	5	4	8	-4	3
San Marino	6	0	0	6	0	21	-21	0

Cricket

LV= Insurance County Championship Division One
Kent v Nottinghamshire
Canterbury (first day of four, Kent won toss): Kent have scored 387 runs for four wickets against Nottinghamshire

Kent: First Innings

B G Compton b Harrison	18
Z Crawley c and b Harrison	158
D J Bell-Drummond c Moores b Fernando	60
T S Muyeye c Harrison b Mullaney	35
*J A Leaning not out	54
†H Z Finch not out	42
Extras (b 6, lb 9, w 5)	20
Total (4 wkts, 96 overs)	387

J D M Evison, A S S Nijjar, N N Gilchrist, Y S Chahal and M G Hogan to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-95, 2-248, 3-248, 4-307.
Bowling Hutton 13-1-73-0; Fernando 16-2-63-1; Paterson 19-0-64-0; James 8-3-21-0; Harrison 24-1-103-2; Mullaney 16-2-48-1.
Nottinghamshire: B T Slater, H Hameed, M Montgomery, J M Clarke, L W James, *S J Mullaney, †T J Moores, C G Harrison, B A Hutton, A M Fernando, D Paterson.
Umpires: M Burns and P R Pollard

Warwickshire v Northamptonshire
Edgbaston (first day of four, Warwickshire won toss and elected to field): Northamptonshire have scored 200 runs for five wickets against Warwickshire

Northamptonshire: First Innings

M H Azad c Miles b Rushworth	1
E N Gay c Burgess b Hannon-Dalby	77
*L A Procter c Hain b Hannon-Dalby	5
K K Nair c Burgess b Barnard	78
R I Keogh b Hannon-Dalby	9
S A Zaib not out	6
†L D McManus not out	10
Extras (b 6, lb 6, nb 2)	14
Total (5 wkts, 73 overs)	200

T A I Taylor, S C Kerrigan, C J White and B W Sanderson to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-5, 2-24, 3-171, 4-181, 5-182.
Bowling Hannon-Dalby 19-7-29-3; Rushworth 16-2-57-1; Miles 12-1-36-0; Barnard 15-4-36-1; Rhodes 9-2-26-0; Briggs 2-1-4-0.
Warwickshire: K C Brathwaite, R M Yates, *W M H Rhodes, D R Mousley, S R Hain, E G Barnard, †M G K Burgess, D R Briggs, C N Miles, C Rushworth, O J Hannon-Dalby.
Umpires: N Pratt and R J Bailey

Lancashire v Middlesex
Old Trafford (first day of four, Middlesex won toss and elected to bat): Middlesex have scored 132 runs for eight wickets against Lancashire

Middlesex: First Innings

M D Stoneman c Hartley b Bailey	0
S D Robson not out	56
J B Cracknell b Williams	1
J L B Davies c Salt b Wood	4
M D E Holden c Bell b Wood	0
†J A Simpson c Salt b Balderson	1
R F Higgins b Williams	41
J M De Caires c Bell b Bailey	14
J Yadav c Wells b Bailey	4
*T S Roland-Jones not out	2
Extras (lb 5nb 4)	9
Total (8 wkts, 58 overs)	132

E R Bamber to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-4, 2-5, 3-16, 4-18, 5-19, 6-83, 7-120, 8-130.
Bowling Bailey 16-8-24-3; Williams 16-6-26-2; Wood 12-1-31-2; Balderson 12-4-40-1; Hartley 1-0-2-0; Wells 1-0-4-0.
Lancashire: *K K Jennings, L W P Wells, J J Bohannon, D J Vilas, †P D Salt, G J Bell, G P Balderson, T W Hartley, T E Bailey, W S A Williams, L Wood.
Umpires: D J Millns and N A Mallender

Division Two
Glamorgan v Yorkshire
SWALEC Stadium (first day of four, Yorkshire won toss and elected to bat): Yorkshire have scored 330 runs for three wickets against Glamorgan

Yorkshire: First Innings

A Lyth b McIlroy	49
F J Bean c Ingram b Carlson	93
*Shan Masood not out	113
J H Wharton lbw b McIlroy	3
G C H Hill not out	51
Extras (b 5, lb 8, nb 8)	21
Total (3 wkts, 78 overs)	330

†J A Tattersall, M L Revis, D M Bess, J A Thompson, B M Cliff and B O Coad to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-98, 2-225, 3-240.
Bowling McIlroy 17-5-41-2; Harris 15-0-80-0; Kellaway 7-0-21-0; Ul-Hassan 9-0-34-0; Gorvin 9-1-41-0; Carlson 21-1-100-1.
Glamorgan: E J Byrom, Z Ul-Hassan, C A Ingram, S A Northeast, *K S Carlson, W T Root, †C B Cooke, B I Kellaway, J A R Harris, A W Gorvin, J P McIlroy.
Umpires: M Newell and P J Hartley

Sussex v Leicestershire
Hove (first day of four, Leicestershire won toss and elected to field): Leicestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 194 runs behind Sussex

Sussex: First Innings

T G R Clark c Budinger b Wright	15
T J Haines c Budinger b Currie	39
T P Alsop c Amin b Scriven	10
*C A Pujara c Ackermann b Salisbury	26
J M Coles c Currie b Salisbury	44
†O J Carter c Ackermann b Currie	16
F J Hudson-Prentice c and b Salisbury	65
J J Carson c Salisbury b Scriven	5
A Karvelas c Ackermann b Salisbury	18
H T Crocombe lbw b Salisbury	6
J D Unadkat not out	3
Extras (b 1, lb 6, w 2, nb 6)	15
Total (72.1 overs)	262

Fall of wickets 1-50, 2-60, 3-80, 4-103, 5-135, 6-179, 7-200, 8-251, 9-259.
Bowling Wright 15-1-50-1; Salisbury 17.1-2-73-5; Currie 12-2-58-2; Scriven 15-3-41-2; Ahmed 12-1-32-0; Ackermann 1-0-1-0.

Leicestershire: First Innings

R K Patel not out	36
S G Budinger c Crocombe b Karvelas	0
*L J Hill c Coles b Haines	11
C N Ackermann not out	17
Extras (b 2, lb 2)	4
Total (2 wkts, 21 overs)	68

U Amin, R Ahmed, †O B Cox, T A R Scriven, C J C Wright, S W Currie and M E T Salisbury to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-10, 2-48.
Bowling Unadkat 6-3-12-0; Karvelas 5-1-10-1; Hudson-Prentice 5-1-15-0; Haines 4-0-23-1; Crocombe 1-0-4-0.
Umpires: P K Baldwin and B J Debenham

Gloucestershire v Derbyshire
The County Ground (first day of four, Gloucestershire won toss and elected to bat): Gloucestershire have scored 333 runs for six wickets against Derbyshire

Gloucestershire: First Innings

B G Charlesworth c Madsen b Reece	30
C D J Dent c Guest b Reece	41
†J R Bracey b Dal	23
O J Price not out	125
M A H Hammond c Guest b Brown	21
*G L van Buuren b Dal	78
Zafar Gohar c Guest b Dal	0
E W O Middleton not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 3, nb 8)	15
Total (6 wkts, 83 overs)	333

J Shaw, D C Goodman and L A Charlesworth to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-80, 2-85, 3-128, 4-169, 5-326, 6-332.
Bowling Conners 17-2-68-0; Brown 10-0-62-1; Dal 16-4-42-3; Reece 11-2-31-2; Thomson 12-0-54-0; Watt 17-1-69-0.
Derbyshire: H R C Came, L M Reece, †B D Guest, W L Madsen, *J L du Plooy, M J Lamb, A K Dal, M R J Watt, A T Thomson, P R Brown, S Conners.
Umpires: T Lungley and J Shantry

Asia Cup
Pakistan v India
R. Premadasa Stadium (Pakistan won toss and elected to bowl): India have scored 147 runs for two wickets against Pakistan with 25.5 overs left. . Rain stopped play, reserve day activated

India		(balls)
*R G Sharma c Ashraf b Khan	56	(49)
S Gill c Salman b Afridi	58	(52)
V Kohli not out	8	(16)
K L Rahul not out	17	(28)
Extras (w 8)	8	
Total (2 wkts, 24.1 overs)	**147**	

†I P K P Kishan, H H Pandya, R A Jadeja, K Yadav, S N Thakur, M Siraj and J J Bumrah did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-121, 2-123.
Bowling Afridi 5-0-37-1; Shah 5-1-23-0; Ashraf 3-0-15-0; Rauf 5-0-27-0; Khan 6.1-1-45-1.
Pakistan: Imam ul-Haq, Fakhar Zaman, *Babar Azam, †Mohammad Rizwan, Agha Salman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Faheem Ashraf, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Nasir Shah, Haris Rauf.

Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy
South East Stars v The Blaze
South East Stars 278 (Smith 34, Davidson-Richards 101, Scholfield 56, Miles 33; Ballinger 4-54). The Blaze 171 (Claridge 33, Gordon 40; Gregory 3-32). South East Stars beat The Blaze by 107 runs.

Sunrisers v Central Sparks
Central Sparks 228-6 (Jones 35, Freeborn 107, Arlott 22). Sunrisers 227-8 (Scrivens 51, Carr 58, Villiers 56; Davis 2-43, Arlott 2-33). Sunrisers beat Central Sparks by four wickets.

Western Storm v Northern Diamonds
Northern Diamonds 281-3 (Winfield-Hill 83, Kalis 45, Armitage 45, Dobson 68; Robbins 2-41). Western Storm 250-7 (Luff 87, Wilson 57, Wraith 61). Northern Diamonds beat Western Storm by 31 runs.

Athletics

Great North Run
Elite Men 1, T Tola (Eth) 59min 58sec; 2, B Abdi (Som) at 1min 22sec; 3, M Edris (Eth) at 1min 55sec; 4, M Farah (GB) at 3min 30sec.
Elite Women 1, P Jepchirchir (Ken) 1hr 6min 45sec; 2, S Lokedi (Ken) at 57sec; 3, C Purdue (GB) at 2min 51sec.

Cycling

La Vuelta
Stage 15 (Pamplona-Lekunberri, 158.3 km, medium-mountain stage) 1, R Costa (Por, Intermarche-Circus-Wanty) 3hr 30min 56sec; 2, L Kamna (Ger, BORA-Hansgrohe); 3, S Buitrago (Col, Bahrain Victorious) both same time; 4, R Evenepoel (Bel, Soudal Quick-Step) at 2sec; 5, A Kron (Den, Lotto Dstny) same time.
Overall leaders 1, S Kuss (US, Jumbo-Visma) 54hr 38min 42sec; 2, P Roglic (Slovenia, Jumbo-Visma) at 1min 37sec; 3, J Vingegaard (Den, Jumbo-Visma) at 1min 44sec; 4, J Ayuso (Sp, UAE Team Emirates) at 2min 37sec; 5, E Mas (Sp, Movistar Team) at 3min 6sec; 6, M Soler (Sp, UAE Team Emirates) at 3min 10sec; 7, M Landa (Sp, Bahrain Victorious) at 4min 12sec; 8, A Vlasov (Russ, BORA-Hansgrohe) at 5min 2sec; 9, C Uijtdebroeks (Bel, BORA-Hansgrohe) at 5min 30sec; 10, J Almeida (Por, UAE Team Emirates) at 8min 39sec.

Tour of Britain
Stage 8 (Margam Country Park-Caerphilly, 166.8 km, flat stage) 1, C Rodriguez (Sp, INEOS Grenadiers) 3hr 52min 43sec; 2, W Van Aert (Bel, Jumbo-Visma) at 11sec; 3, D Howson (Aus, Q36.5 Pro Cycling Team); 4, T Halland Johannessen (Nor, Uno-X Pro Cycling Team); 5, M Sheffield (US, INEOS Grenadiers) all same time.
Final standings 1, Van Aert 28hr 43min 57sec; 2, Johannessen at 3sec; 3, Howson; 4, Sheffield both same time; 5, M Donovan (GB, Q36.5 Pro Cycling Team) at 23sec; 6, Z Kyffin (GB, Saint Piran); 7, G Muhlberger (Aut, Movistar Team); 8, K Bonneu (Bel, Team Flanders-Baloise) all same time; 9, N Politt (Ger, BORA-Hansgrohe) at 28sec; 10, C Rodriguez (Sp, INEOS Grenadiers) same time.

Golf

Irish Open
County Kildare, Ireland: Final scores: 274 V Norrman (Swe) 68, 71, 70, 65. **275** H Long (Ger) 67, 66, 70, 72. **276** G Forrest (Scot) 70, 67, 69, 70; T Lawrence (SA) 72, 65, 73, 66; S Lowry (Ire) 68, 68, 72, 68. **277** N Bachem (Ger) 70, 72, 66, 69; R Hoshino (Japan) 72, 69, 68, 68; M W Lee (Aus) 71, 67, 69, 70; S Sharma (Ind) 65, 66, 75, 71; C Syme (Scot) 69, 72, 70, 66. **Notable others: 279** R McIlroy (N Ire) 69, 70, 66, 74.

LPGA Kroger Queen City Championship
Cincinnati: Third round scores (US unless stated) **201** Min-Jee Lee (Aus) 67 69 65. **203** Ch Hull (Eng) 67 68 68; Peiyun Chien (Taiwan) 66 64 73. **204** M Metraux (Switz) 68 66 70. **205** M Sagstroem (Swe) 69 68 68; Y Saso (Japan) 69 66 70. **206** A Jutanugarn (Thai) 69 69 68. **207** A Lee 71 67 69, Ruoning Yin (China) 68 66 73.

Rugby league

Betfred Super League

Salford	**24**	**Warrington**	**20**

Salford Red Devlis: Tries: Hellewell, Croft (2), Stone. **Cons:** Sneyd 3. **Pen**: Sneyd. **Warrington Wolves: Tries:** Nicholson, Currie, Williams. **Cons:** Ratchford 3. **Pen:** Ratchford.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	25	18	0	7	664	348	36
Catalans D	25	18	0	7	642	412	36
St Helens	25	18	0	7	565	348	36
Leigh	25	15	0	10	559	479	30
Hull KR	25	14	0	11	521	486	28
Warrington	24	13	0	11	551	466	26
Salford	24	12	0	12	462	479	24
Leeds	25	11	0	14	489	473	22
Huddersfield	25	10	0	15	413	512	20
Hull	25	10	0	15	444	572	20
Castleford	25	6	0	19	317	680	12
Wakefield	25	4	0	21	272	666	8

Betfred Championship
Barrow Raiders 32 Swinton Lions 14; Batley Bulldogs 25 Whitehaven 12; Bradford Bulls 10 York Knights 20; London Broncos 52 Widnes Vikings 12.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Featherstone	25	23	0	2	988	269	46
Toulouse	25	18	0	7	790	340	36
Sheffield	25	15	0	10	726	525	30
London B	25	15	0	10	566	524	30
Bradford	25	14	1	10	648	546	29
Batley	25	14	0	11	460	486	28
Halifax	25	13	1	11	655	528	27
Widnes	25	13	0	12	591	552	26
York	25	13	0	12	511	525	26
Barrow	25	8	1	16	429	605	17
Whitehaven	25	8	0	17	445	762	16
Keighley	25	8	0	17	468	790	16
Swinton	25	7	0	18	383	707	14
Newcastle	25	4	1	20	361	862	9

Betfred League One
Oldham 12 North Wales Crusaders 13; Hunslet 14 Doncaster 26.

Rugby union

Rugby World Cup
Pool B
South Africa 18 Scotland 3
Pool C
Wales 32 Fiji 26
Pool D
Japan 42 Chile 12.
● *Tables, page 62*

Premiership Rugby Cup
Ealing Trailfinders 48 Northampton Saints 22; London Scottish 0 Jersey Reds 43.

Tennis

US Open
Flushing Meadows, New York: Women's singles final (6) C Gauff (US) bt (2) A Sabalenka (Bela) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Henry Longfellow is supersub for O'Brien

Racing
Rob Wright Racing Editor

Aidan O'Brien dominated the weekend, with the Irish trainer landing three group one races across Ireland and France, and Henry Longfellow giving him a landmark 4,000th career success in the Goffs Vincent O'Brien National Stakes at the Curragh yesterday.

City Of Troy, who is a warm favourite for the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on May 4, was a late withdrawal from the National Stakes after rain turned the ground good to soft. O'Brien had a more than able deputy, though, with Henry Longellow, partnered by Ryan Moore, storming to a five-length defeat of Islandsinthestream.

Henry Longfellow is now unbeaten in three starts and is a best-priced 6-1 with Coral and Ladbrokes for the 2,000 Guineas, behind 2-1 shot City Of Troy.

Auguste Rodin, who had flopped in the King George, bounced back for O'Brien to win the Irish Champion Stakes on Saturday. He could now sign off for the year in the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita in November.

O'Brien did not have everything his own way, with hot favourites Ylang Ylang and Kyprios both beaten at the Curragh. Ylang Ylang lost her unbeaten record in the Moyglare Stud Stakes, making the early running but dropping worryingly quickly to finish last behind the Karl Burke-trained Fallen Angel. The latter won in good style and, likely to improve when she steps up in trip, looks a worthy favourite at 8-1 for the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket on May 5.

Kyprios was returning from nearly a year off the track and O'Brien will not have been too disappointed as he finished second to Eldar Eldarov, from the Roger Varian stable, in the Comer Group International Irish St Leger.

The Arc trials at Longchamp yesterday made little impact on the ante-post betting for the main event at the same track on October 1. O'Brien landed the only group one race on the card, the Qatar Prix Vermeille, with Warm Heart but she is not entered for the Arc.

If the Arc winner was on show it was German raider Fantastic Moon, who easily beat odds-on favourite Feed The Flame in the Qatar Prix Niel. That was only Fantastic Moon's second try over a mile and a half and it was surprising to see him available at 20-1 with Coral and Ladbrokes for the Arc.

MATT BROWNE/SPORTSFILE



Henry Longfellow was an easy winner of the National Stakes at the Curragh

Crowd gives Farah an emotional send-off

Athletics Mo Farah concluded one of the great British careers by finishing fourth in the Great North Run yesterday. The four-times Olympic gold medallist, 40, a six-times winner of the 13.1-mile race from Newcastle to South Shields, received the adulation of a fervent crowd throughout.

Farah came home in 1hr 3min 28sec. Ethiopia's Tamirat Tola was first in 59:58. "It's amazing support," Farah said. "I wanted to end my career in Newcastle. Without the crowd I wouldn't have got through it." Denise Lewis, Alan Shearer and Paddy McGuinness were among the famous faces cheering Farah on.

In the women's race Kenya's Peres Jepchirchir won in 1:06:45, ahead of Sharon Lokedi and Britain's Charlotte Purdue. There was British success in the wheelchair races with Daniel Sidbury winning in 42:48 and Samantha Kinghorn in 49:21.

Perth
Rob Wright

2.30 Doctor Nightingale **4.15 Inca Prince** (nap)
3.05 A Different Kind **4.47** Saint Arvans
3.40 Beauty To Behold **5.22** Miss Wachit

Going: good
Racing TV

2.30 Juvenile Hurdle (3-Y-O: £4,357: 2m) (5)

1	**IRONOPOLIS** F33 R Menzies 11-0	B Hughes
2	30 **KYOGO** 17 (P) G Elliott (Ire) 11-0	R T Dunne
3	3 **LORD SAM'S CASTLE** 87 I Jardine 11-0	D McMenamin
4	233 **DOCTOR NIGHTINGALE** 10 (BF) G Elliott (Ire) 10-7	S Bowen
5	**EXPERT LADY** F55 M Hammond 10-7	Craig Nichol

6-5 Doctor Nightingale, 5-2 Lord Sam's Castle, 5-1 Kyogo, 6-1 Ironopolis, 14-1 Expert Lady.

Rob Wright's choice: Doctor Nightingale was a good third in a stronger race at Down Royal **Danger** Kyogo

3.05 Handicap Chase (£6,337: 2m 4f) (3)

1	32111 **A DIFFERENT KIND** 23 (CD) D McCain 6-11-10	B Hughes
2	32-34 **CLONDAW HOLLOW** 12 (P,T) J McConnell (Ire) 9-10-7	S Bowen
3	61-33 **HARIBO COLLONGES** 67 P Neville 6-10-5	K Brogan

8-15 A Different Kind, 9-4 Clondaw Hollow, 8-1 Haribo Collonges.

Wright choice: A Different Kind jumped well when winning by an easy 14 lengths here **Danger** Haribo Collonges

3.40 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 4f) (11)

1	3-233 **BEAUTY TO BEHOLD** 23 (H,T) R M Smith 6-12-0	G Sheehan
2	2424- **MORANDI SECOND** 194 P Neville 4-11-13	K Brogan
3	3-310 **PRINCE NINO** 14 (P,T,CD) Lizzie Quinlan 6-11-6	P J Kavanagh (5)
4	60-05 **DOT COTTON** 73 (H,T) R M Smith 6-11-3	S Bowen
5	U055U **MONOXIDE** 14 (T) N McCluskey (Ire) 8-11-1	B Bromley (5)
6	P-622 **SOLWAY MOLLY** 16 Miss L Harrison 8-11-0	Conor Rabbitt (5)
7	44346 **ULTRA VIOLET** 40 (P) N Alexander 5-10-9	B Lynn (3)
8	55-40 **IVYNATOR** 86 Mrs J McGregor 5-10-4	Sean Quinlan
9	4033P **SOLWAY STAREE** 16 Miss L Harrison 5-10-2	D McMenamin
10	6P-P0 **ABOUTTIMEYOUTOLDME** 86 W Coltherd 9-10-2	P W Wadge (5)
11	06P-0 **ILE DE MEMOIRES** 23 (T) M Barnes 7-10-2	S Mulqueen

7-4 Beauty To Behold, 3-1 Morandi Second, 13-2 Prince Nino, 8-1 Ultra Violet, Solway Molly, 12-1 Monoxide, Dot Cotton, 25-1 Ile De Memoires.

Wright choice: Beauty To Behold finished third in a higher grade here last time **Dangers** Morandi Second, Monoxide

4.15 Handicap Hurdle (£5,281: 2m) (8)

1	43212 **WELL PLANTED** 23 (CD) R M Smith 6-12-0	G Sheehan
2	53-55 **INCA PRINCE** 38 (D) Ruth Jefferson 5-11-9	J Hamilton
3	33-61 **RAKHINE STATE** 57 (CD) D J Jeffreys 10-11-5	K Woods
4	60053 **MONEYNABANE** 14 N McCluskey (Ire) 5-10-7	B Bromley (5)
5	21324 **MALANGEN** 5 (CD) Miss L Harrison 8-10-6	P J Kavanagh (5)
6	P4223 **DALILEO** 23 (C) Miss L Harrison 8-10-6	D McMenamin
7	-1530 **JUST DOTTIE** 41 (H,BF,CD) R M Smith 5-10-5	S Bowen
8	034- **JOHN THE BAPTIST** 154 (W,H,T) F O'Brien 4-10-2	L Harrison

7-2 Well Planted, 4-1 Rakhine State, 6-1 Dalileo, 13-2 John The Baptist, Malangen, 7-1 Moneynabane, 8-1 Just Dottie, Inca Prince.

Wright choice: Inca Prince drops to his best trip after racing over further of late **Dangers** Well Planted, Just Dottie

4.47 Handicap Chase (£7,922: 3m) (5)

1	31524 **SAINT ARVANS** 20 (P,T,CD) M Barnes 9-12-0	Conor Rabbitt (5)
2	61-2P **STYLISH MOMENT** 79 (T) L Russell 10-11-5	P W Wadge (5)
3	-0P11 **THEMANINTHEBOOTS** 57 (P) G Elliott (Ire) 5-11-3	S Bowen
4	6-U10 **PETRASTAR** 57 (H,T,BF,CD) D J Jeffreys 8-10-11	K Woods
5	65361 **WASDELL DUNDALK** 23 (CD) Miss L Harrison 8-10-3	D McMenamin

11-8 Themanintheboots, 3-1 Saint Arvans, 9-2 Wasdell Dundalk, 5-1 Petrastar, 10-1 Stylish Moment.

Wright choice: Saint Arvans has cheekpieces back on; can make the most of a drop in class **Danger** Themanintheboots

5.22 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 3m) (7)

1	0-104 **HEADSCARF LIL** 23 N Richards 9-12-0	Sean Quinlan
2	-60P4 **PAMMI** 23 (B,CD) J Goldie 8-11-11	H Reed
3	0-540 **MILLIE OF MAYO** 23 (P) N Richards 8-11-0	D McMenamin
4	R-4P4 **MISS WACHIT** 36 (B) Ruth Jefferson 7-10-13	T Midgley (3)
5	/402- **SOLWAY PRIMROSE** 312 Miss L Harrison 9-10-8	P J Kavanagh (5)
6	00-00 **THORSDA** 78 (P) T Davidson 6-10-3	B Hughes
7	0535P **CONFELICITY** 5 A B Hamilton 5-10-3	D R Fox

9-4 Headscarf Lil, 7-2 Miss Wachit, 9-2 Millie Of Mayo, 5-1 Pammi, 8-1 others.

Wright choice: Miss Wachit shaped well at Market Rasen on her first start after a breathing operation **Danger** Pammi

Brighton
Rob Wright

2.20 Buy The Dip **4.40** Swing To The Stars
2.55 Miguel **5.15** Street Parade
3.30 Line Of Fire (nb) **5.45** Major Gatsby
4.05 Seraphia

Going: good, good to firm in places
Draw: 5f-1m, low best **Sky Sports Racing**

2.20 Handicap (£3,245: 1m) (5)

1	(3) 4-013 **UNCLE DICK** 4 (BF,CD) E J-Houghton 5-9-12	Mia Nicholls (3)
2	(5) 14305 **FREE STEP** 21 (D) Harry Eustace 4-9-9	Kaiya Fraser (3)
3	(4) 32244 **COLOANE** 24 (P) W Jarvis 3-9-8	H Davies
4	(1) 52610 **GOOSE ROCK** 30 (P,T,BF) J Ryan 3-9-6	Adam Tracey (7)
5	(2) 15333 **BUY THE DIP** 8 (BF,D) J Boyle 3-9-4	L Catton

13-8 Uncle Dick, 3-1 Buy The Dip, 4-1 Coloane, 11-2 Free Step, 7-1 Goose Rock.

2.55 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,672: 7f) (7)

1	(5) **MEDICIAN STAR** M Bell 9-7	H Crouch
2	(6) 40 **COMPTON BAY** 14 E J-Houghton 9-5	C Bishop
3	(4) 23 **MIGUEL** 14 Jack Channon 9-5	T Marquand
4	(1) 00 **SOMETHING TO DO** 28 G Boughey 9-5	C Shepherd
5	(2) **GREGORINA** (H) P Chapple-Hyam 9-2	O Murphy
6	(7) 6 **HAPPY PLACE** 24 Harry Eustace 9-2	H Turner
7	(3) 00 **MAJOLICA** 12 A Balding 9-0	H Davies

4-5 Miguel, 4-1 Gregorina, 6-1 Medician Star, 10-1 Happy Place, Compton Bay, 25-1 Majolica, 33-1 Something To Do.

3.30 Nursery (2-Y-O: £3,245: 6f) (7)

1	(4) 060 **SOMEONE LIKE YOU** 9 Martin Dunne 9-11	D Keenan
2	(7) 5050 **TENYATTA** 42 J Osborne 9-11	S Osborne
3	(1) 00452 **LINE OF FIRE** 8 (B) B Millman 9-11	O Murphy
4	(5) 060 **DADAS BOY** 28 D Loughnane 9-5	Jason Watson
5	(3) 000 **FOREST GUEST** 10 (H) Jack Channon 9-2	C Bennett
6	(6) 04045 **MIST OF LIR** 9 (B) Miss A Murphy 8-13	T Marquand
7	(2) 64343 **BIRKIE BOY** 8 J S Moore 8-13	Olivia Tubb (7)

5-4 Line Of Fire, 7-2 Mist Of Lir, 7-1 Birkie Boy, 8-1 Forest Guest, Dadas Boy, 12-1 Someone Like You, 16-1 Tenyatta.

4.05 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 4f) (9)

1	(4) 46562 **CONTROL** 7 (B) J Butler 4-9-9	D Keenan
2	(6) 54335 **STORM VALLEY** 16 A Balding 3-9-5	O Murphy
3	(9) 34613 **NO DIGGITY** 7 (V,BF,CD) Martin Dunne 7-9-3	L Morris
4	(7) 03460 **TEMUR KHAN** 11 (CD) A Carroll 8-9-2	Mollie Phillips (3)
5	(1) 6-640 **LA ESPANOLA** 61 (T) D Menuisier 3-9-2	T Marquand
6	(5) 60203 **DEE'S DREAM** 32 M Murphy & M Keady 3-9-1	C Shepherd
7	(3) -0060 **LAST ROAR** 33 Mrs L Mongan 4-9-1	G Rooke
8	(2) 0-005 **SUNDOWNER** 77 (P) Miss S West 3-8-11	T Whelan
9	(8) 35046 **SERAPHIA** 11 (V) M Bell 3-8-7	S Osborne

9-4 Control, 7-2 Storm Valley, 4-1 No Diggity, 6-1 Seraphia, 10-1 Dee's Dream, 12-1 La Espanola, 14-1 Temur Khan, 20-1 Sundowner, 33-1 Last Roar.

4.40 Handicap (£4,606: 1m 2f) (6)

1	(1) -3422 **MOGWAI** 53 S P C Woods 4-10-2	T Marquand
2	(5) 46363 **KODIMAN** 9 R Varian 3-9-9	C Noble
3	(6) 02303 **SWING TO THE STARS** 24 (BF) I Williams 4-9-9	J Crowley
4	(2) 60440 **SHALFA** 7 (B,C) Mrs L Richards 4-9-7	S Osborne
5	(4) -6032 **LUCIDITY** 69 (BF) E Dunlop 3-9-3	O Murphy
6	(3) 05023 **REFLEX** 27 (V,BF) C Fellowes 3-9-1	C Shepherd

11-4 Swing To The Stars, 3-1 Reflex, 7-2 Mogwai, 4-1 Kodiman, 6-1 Lucidity, 20-1 Shalfa.

5.15 Handicap (£3,245: 5f) (6)

1	(2) 06252 **SECRET HANDSHEIKH** 7 (V,CD) J Gallagher 5-9-11	D Keenan
2	(3) 52250 **DALEY T** 17 A Carroll 3-9-8	Jason Watson
3	(1) 332D **CORELLIAN STAR** 18 (B,BF) A Watson 3-9-7	L Morris
4	(4) 54421 **IMPERIOUSITY** 10 (B,D) A Perrett 3-9-6	J Crowley
5	(6) 55504 **LETHAL ANGEL** 7 (V,CD) B Johnson 8-9-5	Laura Pearson
6	(5) 66600 **STREET PARADE** 18 (P,CD) M Attwater 7-9-2	W Carson

2-1 Imperiousity, 5-2 Corellian Star, 11-4 Secret Handsheikh, 8-1 Lethal Angel, 14-1 Daley T, 16-1 Street Parade.

5.45 Handicap (£3,245: 7f) (7)

1	(3) 36240 **HOBSON POINT** 10 (P) J Ferguson 3-9-12	M Bloss (7)
2	(1) 0-435 **TURQUOISE DIAMOND** 24 (BF) W Haggas 3-9-9	T Marquand
3	(6) 23464 **MAJOR GATSBY** 14 (B,CD) W G M Turner 4-9-9	L Morris
4	(7) 34060 **NATIVE BEACH** 28 (D) Sir M Todd 3-9-7	C Bishop
5	(2) 43141 **MOONDIAL** 24 (D) D & C Kubler 3-9-5	J Crowley
6	(5) 62605 **RUN CMC** 17 (V) P Chamings 3-9-5	G Rooke
7	(4) -0400 **MAYZ** 10 J Gallagher 3-8-5	A Keeley (3)

6-4 Moondial, 5-2 Turquoise Diamond, 4-1 Major Gatsby, 8-1 Hobson Point, 14-1 Run Cmc, 20-1 Native Beach, 25-1 Mayz.

Newcastle
Rob Wright

4.55 Krona **7.00** Dream Final
5.30 Ana Emaraaty **7.30** Mai Alward
6.00 Speed Court **8.00** Lancashire Life
6.30 Hooray For Hazel **8.30** Howyadoin

Going: standard
Draw: no advantage **Sky Sports Racing**

4.55 Handicap (£3,873: 1m 4f) (9)

1	(7) 43200 **SENSE OF WORTH** 15 S Spencer 7-10-4	A Jary (5)
2	(1) 100-0 **KHILWAFY** 44 (C) D Thompson 7-10-1	S B Kirrane
3	(5) 42340 **GASTRONOMY** 44 P Kirby 4-9-11	A Breslin
4	(8) 024 **GOLDEN DELITE** 17 (T) M Appleby 3-9-10	F Larson
5	(4) 44335 **MRS MEADER** 46 (BF,D) J Feilden 7-9-8	S Feilden (5)
6	(9) 11054 **KRONA** 9 (BF,D) C Johnston 3-9-5	O Stammers
7	(6) 03-00 **EASTER ISLAND** 37 (W) J Camacho 4-9-3	Ryan Sexton
8	(2) 31343 **ROBUSTO** 21 (D) Sir M Prescott 3-9-2	Morgan Cole (5)
9	(3) 04060 **TIGERTEN** 14 (D) K Frost 6-9-1	B Sanderson

2-1 Robusto, 4-1 Krona, 9-2 Mrs Meader, 7-1 Golden Delite, 8-1 Sense Of Worth, 10-1 Gastronomy, 16-1 Khilwafy, Easter Island, 33-1 Tigerten.

5.30 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 2f) (14)

1	(5) 33145 **ICE SHADOW** 15 (B,D) A Brown 4-9-10	R Scott
2	(10) 26004 **BALQAA** 11 (CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-9-9	C Howarth (5)
3	(1) 55246 **IRV** 23 (D) M Hammond 7-9-7	A Brookes (5)
4	(13) 04200 **CALCUTTA DREAM** 14 (V,CD) M & D Easterby 5-9-7	Joanna Mason
5	(3) 60040 **CASA LUNA** 13 P Kirby 4-9-4	H Doyle
6	(14) 36400 **COCONUT BAY** 14 (H,T,D) T Davidson 4-9-3	P J McDonald
7	(9) 36204 **SPIRIT OF ASH** 28 (H,T,CD) T Davidson 4-9-2	J Hart
8	(4) 60/00 **CHINESE WHISPERER** 41 H Bethell 6-9-0	C Hardie
9	(6) 04000 **TARNHELM** 12 W Storey 8-9-0	Morgan Cole (5)
10	(7) 063 **DOME OF STARS** 26 C Johnston 3-8-13	J Fanning
11	(8) 00636 **TWO RIVERS** 25 (P,T) I Jardine 3-8-12	A Mullen
12	(11) 40050 **ZAKRAM** 10 D O'Meara 3-8-9	Mark Winn (3)
13	(12) 50366 **ANA EMARAATY** 27 (B) J Goldie 3-8-8	W Pyle (5)
14	(2) 30000 **STELIOS** 15 Phillip Makin 3-8-8	S Gray

5-1 Irv, 7-1 Ice Shadow, Ana Emaraaty, 15-2 Dome Of Stars, 8-1 Zakram, Spirit Of Ash, 10-1 Calcutta Dream, Two Rivers, Balqaa.

6.00 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,564: 1m) (8)

1	(3) 52 **CHIEFMAN** 26 A Watson 9-7	H Doyle
2	(6) 2 **MIASWELL** 10 D O'Meara 9-7	D Tudhope
3	(5) 66 **PEARL SANDS** 12 (H) B Ellison 9-7	B Robinson
4	(1) **AMASAR** C Johnston 9-5	J Hart
5	(8) **BELIEVITANDUCAN** Jessica Macey 9-5	L Edmunds
6	(7) 653 **SPEED COURT** 15 (P) H Kobeissi 9-5	C Lee
7	(4) **LUNAR CYCLE** D O'Meara 9-0	Mark Winn (3)
8	(2) **PLACEHOLDER** G Boughey 9-0	C Rodriguez

3-1 Miaswell, 7-2 Chiefman, 4-1 Speed Court, Placeholder, 6-1 Amasar, 12-1 Lunar Cycle, 20-1 Pearl Sands, 33-1 Believitanducan.

6.30 Nursery (2-Y-O: £3,245: 6f) (12)

1	(8) 366 **POLLY THE ROCKET** 33 Craig Lidster 9-11	S James
2	(3) 54000 **HAVANA PRINCE** 36 T Coyle 9-8	D Nolan
3	(9) 506 **DESERT RAIDER** 59 C Johnston 9-7	J Hart
4	(1) 000 **MY LADY SAMANTHA** 13 (P) Alice Haynes 9-7	K O'Neill
5	(10) 056 **TEES WARRIOR** 26 Adrian Nicholls 9-6	B McHugh
6	(5) 3006 **HOORAY FOR HAZEL** 21 (P) R Fahey 9-6	J Garritty
7	(4) 056 **FOREVER EIGHTEEN** 34 N Tinkler 9-5	R Scott
8	(2) 4564 **LADY OF THE GARR** 21 T Waggott 9-5	C Beasley
9	(12) 056 **WICHAHPI** 9 B Smart 9-2	G Lee
10	(11) 006 **BALMANZOR** 29 O Greenall & J Guerriero 9-0	H Russell
11	(6) 00060 **MISS RAINSTORM** 37 T Waggott 8-13	T Eaves
12	(7) 05046 **LYNDSANDA** 22 (P) K R Burke 8-8	R Oliver

9-2 Lady Of The Garr, 5-1 Hooray For Hazel, 6-1 Lyndsanda, 7-1 others.

7.00 Maiden Stakes (£4,104: 1m) (6)

1	(2) 0- **MUDDAGENT** 332 S Spencer 4-9-12	Dale Swift
2	(6) 2306 **CHILD OF LIR** 23 (P) R Menzies 3-9-7	P Mulrennan
3	(4) 5-53 **DREAM FINAL** 241 (B) E Bethell 3-9-7	C Rodriguez
4	(3) 53604 **HIDDEN CODE** 13 O Pears 3-9-7	G Lee
5	(1) 20360 **AURORA GLORY** 12 O Pears 3-9-2	C Hardie
6	(5) **JAMIE'S CHOICE** T Waggott 3-9-2	C Beasley

11-10 Dream Final, 4-1 Aurora Glory, 5-1 Hidden Code, 6-1 Child Of Lir, 8-1 Jamie's Choice, 33-1 Muddagent.

7.30 Handicap (£3,245: 6f) (14)

1	(10) 01503 **SHOW COMPASSION** 24 (D) M Dods 4-9-9	F McManoman
2	(1) 26004 **NICKLEBY** 10 (B,CD) J Camacho 4-9-8	Doubtful
3	(12) 2526- **FIRCOMBE HALL** 432 (CD) P Kirby 5-9-7	A Breslin (3)
4	(3) 21-10 **MAGIC GEM** 48 B Smart 5-9-6	C Rodriguez
5	(5) 66565 **MUMCAT** 10 (BF) J Coward 4-9-6	Joanna Mason
6	(2) 005 **FRANK THE SPARK** 35 P Midgley 3-9-5	G Lee
7	(14) 00036 **MAI ALWARD** 13 (D) T Davidson 3-9-5	P J McDonald
8	(11) 50035 **LAERTES** 11 (BF) M Appleby 4-9-5	J Hart
9	(9) 30032 **BLACKCURRENT** 14 (P,CD) A Brown 7-9-1	Paula Muir (3)
10	(6) 61000 **MUTABAAHY** 82 (P,C,D) A Brittain 8-9-0	C Hardie
11	(7) 50000 **SHARRABANG** 4 (B,CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 7-9-0	C Howarth (5)
12	(13) 00000 **HENERY HAWK** 56 Miss L Perratt 4-9-0	Tommie Jakes (7)
13	(4) 40600 **HOLLY BLACKMORE** 16 A Nicol 3-8-12	C Beasley
14	(8) 46006 **DRESDEN GREEN** 14 (B) R Carr 3-8-12	L Edmunds

3-1 Laertes, 9-2 Blackcurrent, Show Compassion, 11-2 Magic Gem, 13-2 Mumcat, 14-1 Mai Alward, Dresden Green, 16-1 Fircombe Hall.

8.00 Handicap (£3,245: 6f) (14)

1	(7) 00011 **NAZCA** 24 (D) Miss L Perratt 4-9-9	Tommie Jakes (7)
2	(3) 00000 **CHURCHILL BAY** 39 (T) Ronald Thompson 5-9-9	T Eaves
3	(14) 36050 **TATHMEEN** 14 (P,CD) A Brittain 8-9-7	C Hardie
4	(11) 06010 **DEPUTISE** 11 (C,D) M Wigham 7-9-7	D Allan
5	(6) 00010 **CONGRESS** 14 (P,D) R Fell & S Murray 3-9-6	J Peate (3)
6	(5) 00053 **LUPSET FLOSSY POP** 14 (BF,CD) Phillip Makin 3-9-6	R Scott
7	(2) 04253 **NOBLE CAPTAIN** 14 (T) K Scott 3-9-6	J Hart
8	(13) 61526 **CAPTAIN DANDY** 56 (D) R Fahey 3-9-4	J Garritty
9	(4) 26435 **EYES** 33 (B,C) Jessica Macey 5-9-2	L Edmunds
10	(1) 03245 **LANCASHIRE LIFE** 10 (CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-9-1	C Howarth (5)
11	(10) 00526 **ZEGOS SURPRISE** 42 Paul Collins 5-9-0	P J McDonald
12	(8) 00000 **FIGHTING CHANCE** 6 (P) S G West 4-9-0	Molly Gunn (7)
13	(12) 54050 **DOON THE GLEN** 4 (V) J Goldie 3-8-13	W Pyle (5)
14	(9) 0-030 **THE WHITE ELEPHANT** 162 S Waugh 3-8-12	Amie Waugh (5)

11-4 Nazca, 4-1 Lupset Flossy Pop, 7-1 Deputise, 8-1 Eyes, Noble Captain, 10-1 Captain Dandy, 12-1 Lancashire Life, Congress.

8.30 Handicap (£3,245: 5f) (14)

1	(12) 60D23 **GLORIOUS RIO** 17 (B,BF,CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 6-9-10	C Howarth (5)
2	(2) 42540 **DOCTOR MOZART** 14 (V,D) P Kirby 3-9-9	C Rodriguez
3	(7) -4146 **LADY CELIA** 21 (C,D) A Brown 6-9-9	C Lee
4	(8) 0-000 **SO SLEEPY** 19 (T,D) W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-8	L Edmunds
5	(11) 65306 **ANNIE MAHER** 27 K Scott 3-9-8	W Pyle (5)
6	(13) 10150 **URBAN DANDY** 15 (P,CD) T Coyle 3-9-6	D Nolan
7	(6) 45330 **ACONCAGUA MOUNTAIN** 13 (B,BF,D) I Jardine 5-9-5	A Mullen
8	(1) 32214 **LATIN FIVE** 15 (D) P Midgley 6-9-4	G Lee
9	(14) 00000 **FAI FAI** 39 (H) A Brittain 4-9-4	H Russell
10	(4) 656 **JAILHOUSE ROCK** 82 P Niven 3-9-3	P Mulrennan
11	(3) 05400 **PHOENIX STAR** 14 (P,CD) Jessica Macey 7-9-0	T Jakes (7)
12	(10) 003-0 **DALGLISH** 14 (H) A Brittain 4-8-13	C Hardie
13	(9) 45304 **HOWYADOIN** 10 (V,BF) M Appleby 3-8-12	J Hart
14	(5) 50506 **ACLAIM TO FAME** 22 (V) R Menzies 3-8-9	C Beasley

4-1 Glorious Rio, 9-2 Latin Five, 5-1 Howyadoin, 6-1 Aconcagua Mountain, 7-1 Lady Celia, 8-1 Aclaim To Fame, 12-1 Urban Dandy, 16-1 Annie Maher.

Newton Abbot
Rob Wright

2.40 Ya Know Yaseff **4.25** Slate Lane
3.15 Way Out **5.00** Wilderness
3.50 Investment Manager **5.35** Johnnie River

Going: good to soft, good in places
Sky Sports Racing

2.40 Handicap Chase (£5,255: 3m 2f) (4)

1	-5105 **SHARP NOTE** 18 (CD) Seamus Mullins 6-12-0	B Harris
2	-2104 **PRINCE CLENI** 45 Christian Williams 5-11-13	E Collier (8)
3	U4-P1 **YA KNOW YASEFF** 8 (B,T) D Pipe 6-11-10(7ex)	Mr G Harney (8)
4	/U522 **JANESLITTLEVOICE** 10 Ella Pickard 9-11-2	Harriet Tucker (5)

4-5 Ya Know Yaseff, 9-2 Sharp Note, Janeslittlevoice, 5-1 Prince Cleni.

3.15 Novices' Hurdle (£6,535: 2m 2f 110yd) (5)

1	05-11 **WAY OUT** 110 Syd Hosie 6-11-10	M G Nolan
2	1-212 **THE GALAHAD KID** 21 (T) F O'Brien 7-11-6	P Brennan
3	2-112 **ALL THE GLORY** 2 (P,BF) Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-3	Jonjo O'Neill Jr
4	2-203 **SIX AND OUT** 11 D Weston 5-11-0	D Bass
5	34P4 **BUCK OF MAINE** 13 P Bowen 4-10-11	B R Jones

13-8 All The Glory, 9-4 The Galahad Kid, 5-2 Way Out, 10-1 Six And Out, 20-1 Buck Of Maine.

3.50 Handicap Chase (£5,528: 2m 5f) (5)

1	52311 **INVESTMENT MANAGER** 20 (T,CD) Joe Tizzard 7-12-0	B J Powell
2	-1115 **OPENING BID** 50 (BF,C) C Down 8-11-10	B Carver
3	61134 **ASTROMAN** 87 Syd Hosie 6-10-9	J Best
4	1-313 **FRANKIE FAULKNER** 18 E Williams 6-10-6	Isabel Williams (3)
5	0-602 **SHOT TOWER** 9 (T) Joe Ponting 7-10-2	Doubtful

13-8 Investment Manager, 5-2 Opening Bid, 3-1 Frankie Faulkner, 5-1 Astroman.

4.25 Handicap Hurdle (£10,075: 3m 2f 105yd) (8)

1	2-601 **GO CHIQUE** 23 (P) N Henderson 7-12-0	N De Boinville
2	61104 **TOMMIE BEAU** 14 Seamus Mullins 8-11-10	M G Nolan
3	32222 **MR YEATS** 16 (V,CD) M Harris 6-11-7	Daire Davis (7)
4	12P15 **HUNTING PERCIVAL** 11 (T,D) Syd Hosie 8-11-5	J Best
5	0D-11 **SLATE LANE** 21 E Mullins (Ire) 5-11-4	R McLernon
6	1U26- **VALENTINO** 303 (CD) Miss J Du Plessis 8-11-1	H Kimber (3)
7	-F443 **PRESENTING YEATS** 36 (P,CD) M Harris 7-10-12	B Harris (5)
8	00-60 **SAMMYLOU** 20 (T,CD) D Killahena & G McPherson 10-10-11	Bryony Frost

5-6 Slate Lane, 13-2 Mr Yeats, 7-1 Go Chique, 8-1 Valentino, 10-1 Hunting Percival, 12-1 Presenting Yeats, 14-1 Tommie Beau, 50-1 Sammylou.

5.00 Handicap Hurdle (£4,711: 2m 1f) (7)

1	515-P **SAYWHATYOUWANT** 12 (H,T,D) D Killahena & G McPherson 5-12-0	M Kendrick
2	343U4 **KARANNELLE** 9 (H,T,CD) D Rees 8-11-11	A Wedge
3	4-22P **PRINCESS MIDNIGHT** 53 (T) Joe Tizzard 9-11-4	B J Powell
4	B0340 **PEPSIWITHACAP** 9 (B,T,D) D Pipe 4-11-1	J Tudor
5	0-311 **SADDLERS QUEST** 20 (CD) D Hamer 9-11-0	J A Anderson (5)
6	/4PP- **WILDERNESS** F25 (V,D) Seamus Mullins 8-10-11	D Sansom (3)
7	003-6 **TIME TO BURN** 9 (H,T) N Hawke 5-10-2	D Noonan

11-8 Saddlers Quest, 5-2 Princess Midnight, 15-2 Karannelle, 8-1 Wilderness, 10-1 Pepsiwithacap, 14-1 Saywhatyouwant, 16-1 Time To Burn.

5.35 NH Flat Race (£2,722: 2m 1f) (5)

1	**JOHNNIE RIVER** Mrs S Gardner 4-11-0	Lucy Gardner
2	0- **WHO'S SORRY NOW** 310 W G M Turner 5-10-9	B Ffrench-Davis (7)
3	0-6 **BRADFORD LADY** 18 M Harris 4-10-7	B Harris (5)
4	U **JUKEBOX ANNIE** 11 Claire Hitch 4-10-7	Ciaran Gethings
5	5 **BASMAN PALACE** 42 (T) C J Gray 4-10-6	Doubtful

7-4 Johnnie River, 9-4 Bradford Lady, 7-2 Who's Sorry Now, Jukebox Annie.

The following horses are blinkered for the first time today: Brighton 3.30 Line Of Fire; 5.15 Corellian Star. **Newcastle** 7.00 Dream Final.

Yesterday's racing results

Fontwell
Going: good

2.00 (2m 5f 164yd, hdle) 1, **Shewearsthewellies** (Toby Wynne, 9-1); 2, Pennsylvanie (25-1); 3, Kentford Mallard (13-2). 8 ran. NR: Eaton Lady. ¾l, 11l. Mrs L Hill.

2.33 (2m 1f 162yd, hdle) 1, **Two Past Eight** (Tom Cannon, Evens fav); 2, Grain Of Hope (15-8); 3, Limelight (4-1). 4 ran. 9½l, 15l. A King.

3.03 (3m 1f 210yd, ch) 1, **Organdi** (Sam Twiston-Davies, 11-4); 2, Cheltenam De Vaige (11-4); 3, Moratorium (11-2). 4 ran. 21l, 1l. R T Phillips.

3.38 (2m 3f 49yd, hdle) 1, **Watergrange Jack** (Sam Twiston-Davies, 5-6 fav); 2, Icare Grandchamp (5-2); 3, Sermando (10-1). 4 ran. NR: Elham Valley. 1½l, ¾l. N P Mulholland.

4.10 (2m 5f 135yd, ch) 1, **Toad Of Toad Hall** (Phillip Armson, 4-1); 2, Bensini (9-4 fav); 3, Zoran (3-1). 6 ran. 6l, 4¾l. Alexandra Dunn.

4.43 (2m 1f 162yd, flat) 1, **My Louise** (Tom Cannon, 5-1); 2, Dance In The Park (8-1); 3, Little Madam (20-1). 6 ran. 1¼l, 30l. Mrs L Richards.

Placepot: £2,858.90.
Quadpot: £159.10.

York
Going: good to firm (good in places)

1.40 (6f) 1, **The Coffee Pod** (P J McDonald, 3-1); 2, Pilgrim (10-3); 3, Ziggy's Condor (13-8 fav). 7 ran. 1l, 2l. R Hannon.

2.15 (7f 192yd) 1, **Florida** (Cieren Fallon, 7-1); 2, Theme Park (13-2); 3, Real Gain (3-1 fav). 6 ran. NR: Harlem Nights, Tajawal. Nk, 1½l. W J Haggas.

2.45 (2m 56yd) 1, **Yorkindness** (J Fanning, 11-10 fav); 2, Gibside (9-4); 3, Tendentious (5-2). NR: Red Force One. 8l, 9l. C Johnston.

3.15 (6f) 1, **Tropical Island** (W Buick, 6-5 fav); 2, Batal Zabeel (11-2); 3, Watch My Tracer (4-1). 6 ran. NR: Media Shooter. 2½l, 1l. R A Fahey.

3.50 (6f) 1, **Commanche Falls** (Connor Beasley, 10-3); 2, Juan Les Pins (9-1); 3, Emaraaty Ana (2-1 fav). 8 ran. NR: Al Suhail. ¾l, ¾l. M Dods.

4.25 (1m 2f 56yd) 1, **Anjo Bonita** (Jonny Peate, 11-2); 2, Mathematician (10-3 fav); 3, Award Dancer (28-1). 13 ran. Sh hd, sh hd. R Fell S Murray.

4.55 (5f) 1, **Looking For Lynda** (Sam Feilden, 7-1); 2, Wen Moon (33-1); 3, Pillow Talk (6-1). ; 4, Brooklyn Nine Nine (16-1). 17 ran. NR: Thunder Moor. ¾l, nk. K R Burke.

Placepot: £58.60.
Quadpot: £6.00.

Antony return put on hold

CONTINUED FROM BACK

against Bolivia and Peru over the allegations. However, Antony and United released statements yesterday to say that the player will take a leave of absence from the club.

"I have agreed with Manchester United to take a period of absence while I address the allegations made against me," Antony's statement read. "This was a mutual decision to avoid distraction to my team-mates and unnecessary controversy for the club.

"I want to reiterate my innocence of the things I have been accused of, and I will co-operate with the police to help them reach the truth."

The club's statement read: "Manchester United acknowledge the allegations made against Antony. Players who have not participated in international matches are due back in training on Monday. However, it has been agreed with Antony that he will delay his return until further notice in order to address the allegations.

"We condemn acts of violence and abuse. We recognise the importance of safeguarding all those involved and acknowledge the impact these allegations have on survivors of abuse."

The winger has not been suspended by the club and will remain on full pay.

Anthony appeared on Brazilian TV on Friday and said: "I never attacked any woman." He also added "the truth will come out".

Lana, a 33-year-old banker, had earlier claimed in a television interview that she was pressured by Antony to have sex while on a business trip to England last year.

De Freitas claimed she needed hospital treatment after allegedly being assaulted by Antony and a woman in May last year. Antony has denied all the allegations.

How other sports handle allegations of abuse

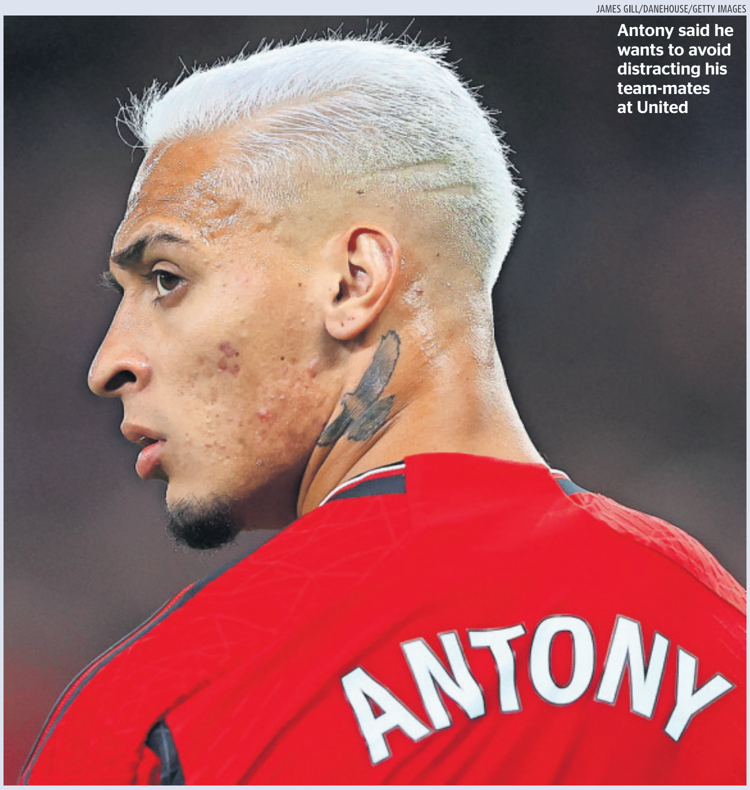
Tennis
The ATP's lack of a domestic violence policy was criticised when some of the sport's biggest names avoided bans after incidents. Nick Kyrgios pleaded guilty to pushing his ex-girlfriend to the floor in 2021, but the 2022 Wimbledon runner-up was allowed to play on. The common assault charge was dismissed without a conviction in February.

Alexander Zverev, a US Open finalist, was accused of trying to strangle his ex-girlfriend with a pillow in 2020, but an ATP investigation found there was "insufficient evidence" to prove the allegations and he faced no disciplinary action.

Basketball
Under the present NBA collective bargaining agreement, player contracts may be terminated if its policy on domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse is violated. The league provides a hotline for victims of any of these three actions and also tries to prevent any incidents through educational programmes.

Earlier this year, Miles Bridges, the Charlotte Hornets forward, was suspended for 30 games without pay for a domestic violence incident, with the NBA conducting its own investigation to reach this decision. Bridges had pleaded no contest in November 2022 to a felony charge after accusations that he assaulted the mother of his children in front of them. The suspension was announced last April.

JAMES GILL/DANEHOUSE/GETTY IMAGES



Antony said he wants to avoid distracting his team-mates at United

American football
NFL players receive a six-game ban without pay if they breach the league's domestic violence policy. This ruling was introduced in 2014 after the NFL was criticised for only banning Ray Rice for two games after footage emerged of the Baltimore Ravens running back dragging his unconscious fiancée from a lift. A second offence results in a permanent ban, though players can apply for reinstatement after one year.

Under the present policy, counselling is available for offenders and victims, while the NFL educates both its players and high school students about domestic violence.

The league has also given financial support to the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Rugby union
In January 2023, the Glasgow Warriors and Scotland full back Rufus McLean pleaded guilty to domestic abuse charges, which included pushing the victim and "aggressive" behaviour.

Glasgow terminated his contract, with the Scottish Rugby chief executive Mark Dodson saying he would "fully support" the club's approach.

Last May, the France prop Mohamed Haouas was sentenced to one year in jail for domestic abuse. The French rugby federation called his behaviour "inadmissible and incompatible with representing our country at international level".

Rugby league
In Australia's National Rugby League competition, the St George Illawarra Dragons prop Francis Molo was banned for two games and fined about £7,680 after he pleaded guilty to a domestic incident in February.

The charge involved one count of "stalk/intimidate with intent to cause fear or physical harm". He also undertook an NRL-approved course to improve his behaviour.

Boxing
Gervonta Davis, the American lightweight, had four bouts between being charged over an alleged domestic violence incident in Florida in February 2020 and the case being discharged late last year.

Notts County 'half-ready' for a second promotion

Kit Shepard
Postcard from the pyramid

Are Notts County good enough for League One? Their game against Milton Keynes Dons may have offered the most definitive answer yet. The League Two leaders were tested against a side with a third-tier identity and although County slipped to second after the 1-1 draw at Stadium MK, they reiterated their credentials for a second successive promotion.

MK Dons are a bona fide League One club, playing 16 of their 20 seasons in that division. Had they had a fraction more ruthlessness or fortune on the final day of the last campaign, they would have avoided relegation from it.

Subsequent results have hinted at an instant return. Going into the game with County, they had a perfect home record, sat third in the table and had already dispatched the other half of the 2022-23 National League's imperious duo by winning 5-3 away to Wrexham.

Yet County went into this one top and they controlled proceedings. They enjoyed 70 per cent of the possession and once Kyle Cameron rifled in a 20-yard equaliser in the 66th minute, they pushed more assertively for a winner.

Most criticisms of County's performance have legitimate caveats. Ellis Harrison wasted a great chance to win the game for MK Dons in stoppage time — somehow diverting over from about six yards — but Macaulay Langstaff wasted an equally good chance earlier when his free header was brilliantly saved by Craig MacGillivray.

MK Dons have fitness problems — MJ Williams was missed in midfield and their top scorer, Mo Eisa, was restricted to a substitute role. Yet County had limited availability too, with David McGoldrick among those injured and Jodi Jones on international duty

Besides the link between Aaron Nemane and Dan Crowley on the right, County struggled to make the most of their possession. Nevertheless, patience is a hallmark under Luke Williams, who remained pragmatic after a fitful attacking effort no doubt accentuated by the heat. "The game is about scoring goals, but it is also about not conceding goals," the head coach said. "Last season we played in a similar way and scored 117 so we trust ourselves that we can get the balance right."

The goal County conceded just after half-time was more concerning. After a turnover, Daniel Harvie was allowed to run unopposed from the left wing into the area before stroking home. "It was one moment where we lose a little bit of our concentration," Williams said. "We make a pass forward that is probably not on, and then we didn't react to the transition perfectly well."

Graham Alexander, the MK Dons head coach who previously tackled League Two with a newly promoted Salford City team, is suitably wary. "Notts County and Wrexham recruited ready-made Football League players when they were in the National League," he said. "We did something similar at Salford and when you make that jump you are half-ready for it. I don't think Notts County are perturbed by the level they have gone to. They've got really good players and a way of playing that they know inside-out."

Irish hopes all but ended by Weghorst and Gakpo

Ireland *Idah 4 (pen)*	**1**
Holland *Gakpo 19 (pen), Weghorst 56*	**2**

Euro 2024 qualifier
Paul Rowan

Ireland's hopes of qualifying for Euro 2024 via group B are effectively over after Holland overcame an early scare to prevail at the Aviva Stadium.

Stephen Kenny's side went ahead in the fourth minute through an Adam Idah penalty, but Cody Gakpo quickly equalised from the spot and substitute Wout Weghorst struck the winner shortly after half-time. Qualification is still mathematically possible for Ireland but, in reality, their hopes of progressing from the group are dead after losing four of their five games.

Ireland pressed high in the opening minutes and Holland were caught cold. Mark Flekken, the Brentford goalkeeper, played a sloppy pass straight to Josh Cullen and when the ball was moved out to Chiedozie Ogbene, his shot was blocked. From the subsequent corner, John Egan headed goalwards and the ball was stopped by the outstretched arm of Virgil van Dijk. The referee, Irfan Peljto, instantly awarded a penalty which Idah tucked away confidently.

However, in the 18th minute, Ireland were left to rue a mistake of their own. Matt Doherty's header was picked up by Gakpo, who immediately played an excellent defence-splitting ball to Denzel Dumfries. He flicked the ball past Gavin Bazunu, who took him down for a clear penalty, which Gakpo stepped up to convert and level the score.

Bazunu made two good saves from Donyell Malen, in from the start in place of Weghorst, but he was unable to find the finish in the first half to go with his impressive turn of pace.

After half-time, the away team began to turn the screw, with only a goal-saving tackle by Alan Browne denying Xavi Simons.

Ireland were beginning to drop deeper and show signs of fatigue, which looked ominous. The most influential player on the pitch, Frenkie de Jong, had time and space to flick the ball over the Ireland defence in the 56th minute and Dumfries, charging in from the right flank, headed the ball across the box where Weghorst, who had come on as a half-time substitute, got between Egan and Shane Duffy and flicked the ball past Bazunu.

From there, the Dutch were happy to stay defensively solid and try to hit Ireland on the break. Ireland threw men forward looking for the equaliser but their final ball was poor and question marks will now be raised again about the future of Kenny in what has been another failed campaign.

O'Neill's side beaten again

Northern Ireland's Euro 2024 qualifying misery continued as they fell to a 1-0 defeat away to Kazakhstan. It was a fifth consecutive defeat in this campaign, and the fourth time in the last five games that Michael O'Neill's injury-ravaged side have been unable to muster a goal. Kazakhstan put the first nail in the coffin of Northern Ireland's qualifying hopes with their smash-and-grab 1-0 win in Belfast in June and added another yesterday with Maxim Samorodov's 27th-minute strike.

Can Henry finally crack it as coach?

Icon has a third shot as a manager but must prove credentials in bid to dethrone England … and Deschamps, says **Ian Hawkey**



Some of the beaten team asked for selfies, posing alongside the winning manager. Young professionals are not encouraged to celebrate defeat by genuflecting so easily, yet for these wannabes, members of the Denmark Under-21 side, Thierry Henry will always be a hero. They are of an age to have first fallen in love with football when he was among the most watchable, glamorous players on the planet.

Henry indulged the awestruck Danes with a gentle smile. After all, it was only a friendly, one that augured well for his third coming as a manager. His France Espoirs, the national under-21 team he took over last month, had defeated their Danish counterparts 4-1.

Today, five days on and away to Slovenia, Henry makes his competitive bow in the job, insisting he has a single purpose, to dethrone England as European Under-21 champions in two summers' time. But his new role forks out in not one but three directions. He also has responsibility for France's Olympic men's team, an under-23 side with permission to include three over-age players. Not for almost a century have France's football Olympians carried so much expectation: next August, they hope to be contesting the gold medal at the Paris Games, by which time the senior Bleus, if they have underachieved under Didier Deschamps in July's Euros, might be seeking a new manager, perhaps one promoted from within the ranks.

That all presents Henry with a magnificent opportunity to relaunch a coaching career that, kindly put, has progressed in fits and starts and was beginning to look as if it might become secondary to his TV punditry. That was an illusion. Few superstars of Henry's generation give such a strong impression that, post-playing, coaching is the logical métier. Besides the glittering CV — World Cup winner; league titles with Monaco, Arsenal and Barcelona, the last as part of a Treble including the Champions League — there are his illustrious teachers: Arsène Wenger; Pep Guardiola; even Carlo Ancelotti. And there is the tireless appetite, familiar to anybody who knows Henry, for study and analysis.

Yet the managerial record is scant. After an apprenticeship working with Arsenal's youth teams and the first of two stints as assistant manager with Belgium, he was made head coach of Monaco in late 2018. He lasted 20 relegation-zone matches, his better legacy — some carrot-and-stick nurturing of teenagers including Benoît Badiashile, now of Chelsea, and Khéphren Thuram, now a full France international — was appreciated only later. A spell coaching Montreal Impact would be disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

That past, Henry acknowledged, leaves "doubts". Through his interviews with the French Football Federation (FFF), reservations were overcome. Some old wounds have healed, too. Henry stands atop a high pedestal in French sport but has found himself in some oblique positions with the senior national team. He was the France captain for the nadir of the 2010 World Cup, when the squad went on strike, mid-tournament. He was working for the opposition when France narrowly beat Belgium in the semi-final of their victorious 2018 World Cup.

"It's a significant and bold choice to bring in a legend of French football," said Philippe Diallo, the FFF president, on putting Henry in command of the Espoirs and giving him access to a cohort that, even by the high standards of France's talent nursery, looks special. The market certainly thinks it is.

In this calendar year, more than €300 million (about £260 million) has been spent on transfer fees for French footballers who will not turn 23 before January 1. Paris Saint-Germain snapped up the winger Bradley Barcola from Lyon for close to £40 million. RB Leipzig, experts in shrewd recruitment, invested the same in defenders Castello Lukeba and El Chadaille Bitshiabu. Chelsea, sometimes shrewd amid the scattergun recruitment, spent almost £85 million on Badiashile, 22, Malo Gusto, 20, and Lesley Ugochukwu, 19, and would have liked to add Crystal Palace's Michael Olise, 21, to their deep pool of French potential.

"This generation is already at a very top level," said Sabri Lamouchi, the former France international who applied for the under-21 job but found his broad coaching experience trumped by Henry's aura. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, with the target of a gold medal at your own Olympics."

It is also beset with hurdles. Like all under-21 coaches, Henry must bow to hierarchy: the precocious Eduardo Camavinga, still only 20 and well established at Real Madrid, graduated to Deschamps' senior side more than three years ago. He will not be going back to the Espoirs. And if Camavinga wants to play in the Olympics next summer, he will need to persuade Real Madrid to excuse him, post-Euros, from a further portion of pre-season.

The Paris Games' football finals are scheduled for the second weekend of August and the Olympic men's football is not a competition for which Fifa require clubs to cede players. While French clubs have, patriotically, indicated support for call-ups, the posture elsewhere is likely to be hard-edged. Bayern Munich forbade their French striker Mathys Tel from joining France Under-17 at the World Cup in May. William Saliba, of Arsenal, withdrew from the French squad that went — and flopped — to the Tokyo Olympics. Saliba, a Parisien, is still of an age to be selected for the Paris Games. Here's where Henry's stardust will be sprinkled. Diallo, the FFF president, has asked Henry to work on persuading players — and club managers — to put country first for a few summer weeks. He should have powerful allies. Kylian Mbappé, who like Henry was born in suburban Paris, says he wants one of the three over-age places in the Olympic team. Antoine Griezmann, 32, and Aurélien Tchouaméni, 23, of Atlético and Real Madrid respectively, have shown similar interest.

For Mbappé's present club, Paris Saint-Germain, sharing resources with the Games is a local obligation. Henry will value that. Among his boldest moves since taking over the under-21s has been to make the PSG midfielder Warren Zaire-Emery captain of the Espoirs. Zaire-Emery is only 17, but has started every PSG match this season.

"We all know what Warren can do with his feet, but I wanted to know if he had the stomach for it," said Henry of handing the armband to his youngest player. France is similarly curious about the leadership of Henry.

JEAN CATUFFE/GETTY IMAGES



Mbappé, left, has said he wants to play for Henry at Paris 2024

How they could line up

4-3-3, team picked based on all players getting permission to play from their clubs.

*over-age players: three over-23s permitted.

L Chevalier
(21, Lille)
M Gusto
(20, Chelsea)
W Saliba
(22, Arsenal)
B Badiashile
(22, Chelsea)
E Camavinga
(20, Real Madrid)
W Zaire-Emery
(17, PSG)
A Tchouaméni
(23*, Real Madrid)
A Griezmann
(32*, Atlético Madrid)
M Olise
(21, Crystal Palace)
M Tel
(18, Bayern Munich)
K Mbappé
(24*, PSG)

Germany sack manager for first time ever as Japan see off Flick

Hansi Flick has become the first manager to be sacked in the history of the German men's national team after his side's 4-1 defeat by Japan.

The former Bayern Munich head coach was appointed in August 2021 after Germany were knocked out in the round of 16 at the European Championship, but he won only 12 of his 25 matches in charge.

The team's form had become increasingly erratic under Flick, 58, with a second successive group-stage exit at the World Cup last year part of a run of only three victories in the past 12 months. With Germany hosting the Euros next summer, the German football federation (DFB) has taken unprecedented action.

Rudi Völler, the former Germany striker who also managed the national team between 2000-04 — leading them to the 2002 World Cup final — will take charge of the team for their friendly against France in Dortmund tomorrow.

The DFB president, Bernd Neuendorf, said in a statement: "The committees agreed that the men's senior national team needs new impetus after the recent disappointing results.

"We need, in facing the European Championship, a spirit of optimism and confidence in our own country.



Flick won only 12 of his 25 games in charge of Germany

"For me personally, it is one of the most difficult decisions of my time in office so far, because I appreciate Hansi Flick and his assistant coaches as football experts and people. But sporting success is the top priority for the DFB. So the decision was inevitable."

Völler, who as well as taking over as caretaker also holds the role of the director of the national team, said: "Hansi Flick has worn himself out over the past few months; together with his coaching team, he has given everything to get back on track after leaving the World Cup in Qatar to make the turn for the better. Unfortunately, we have to realise today that it was not successful. The Japan game has clearly shown us that we can no longer make any progress in this situation."

Japan, who also beat Germany at last year's World Cup, took the lead in Saturday's friendly in Wolfsburg through Junya Ito, before Leroy Sané equalised. Ayase Ueda restored the away team's lead and late goals from Takuma Asano and Ao Tanaka compounded Germany's misery and sealed Flick's fate.

Southgate: I have talked Walker out of retiring twice

Henry Winter



Chief Football Writer

Kyle Walker, the man of the match in England's plodding draw with Ukraine, tried to retire from international football after Euro 2020 and the 2022 World Cup, Gareth Southgate has revealed.

The news, subsequently confirmed by Walker, stirs both a sense of alarm at how close England came to losing an outstanding defender and competitor and also provides a clear window into the England dressing room.

Walker's plan to step down stemmed from his appreciation of the other talent piling through at right back, such as Trent Alexander-Arnold, Reece James and Kieran Trippier, reflecting England's remarkable strength in depth. Walker was twice talked out of it by Southgate, reflecting both the manager's human touch and the respect in which players hold him.

This sums up where England are under Southgate: a gifted collection of footballers and a manager with good people skills who has changed the culture around the team. But England need more. Southgate's job patently revolves around expert decision-making as well as astute man-management.

To Walker first. It was quite the revelation by Southgate. During a post-match chat about Walker's stellar performance, and his first international goal coming on his 77th appearance at the age of 33, Southgate said: "I've talked him out of retirement twice!

"Out of international football," he clarified. "After the Euros and after the World Cup. I think he loves being here and he has wanted to keep going and now he's thinking about how many caps he can get. He's critical to us. If we're talking about world-class players in our team, then he's probably one of them."

Noting the surprise in his small audience gathered near the team bus by the Tarczynski Arena, Southgate added: "I probably realise I've overstepped here. I think he [Walker] didn't realise how much value we have for him and how important he is for us. He's probably not going to thank me for sharing that."

Ten minutes later Walker hurried past towards the bus but stopped when asked to confirm Southgate's disclosure. As he was about to reply, the manager suddenly appeared behind him and said, "I told you!" This was good man-management. Southgate realised he had overstepped, giving news that really was Walker's to give, and had headed back to the dressing room to alert the player.

Walker took it in his stride, laughed and explained his thought process. "Yes, I am playing well," he said. "At the time that me and Gareth spoke, the likes of Trent [Alexander-Arnold], Tripps [Kieran Trippier], Reece James coming through… you do think your days are numbered. And how many holidays and summers that I've sacrificed? I've been doing this since I was 19 [actually 20] when I joined the senior team. I'm 33 now."

Walker was first called into the England squad by Fabio Capello and made his senior debut at 21. Roy Hodgson, Sam Allardyce and Southgate all picked him, although he had a season, 2019-20, out in the cold and was sent off on his recall. But Southgate values him. "Me and Gareth have a good relationship off the field," Walker said. "We do speak and I feel that I can still bring something to the team. So why stop?"

Southgate believes Walker, a Treble winner with Manchester City, has improved with age. "He's become a really mature leader for us," he said. "He's got huge experience of winning big matches and all week … his focus was really clear, the way he was organising, his influence on younger players. He is enjoying the extra responsibility he's had at his club [as vice-captain] and he's ready to embrace that with us as well."

In the past year Walker has embraced the challenge of coping with Kylian Mbappé, of France, at the World Cup and Vinícius Jr, of Real Madrid, in the Champions League.

In Wroclaw, he stifled the pacey if haphazard Mykhailo Mudryk, the Ukraine left winger. "Mudryk has not hit the heights yet in the Premier League but he's a bloody dangerous player," Southgate said. "His [Walker's] ability to control those counterattacks was critical."

Further testimony to Walker's quality came from Jordan Pickford. Asked whether "people properly appreciate" Walker, the goalkeeper replied: "They should. He's the best right back in the world for me. [Look at] his pace against Mudryk, who's absolutely rapid, and games against Mbappé, his defensive stuff as well. He's got that experienced head and he's been at City winning titles and [with] everything he's done in his career, he helps us as players." Pickford added that Walker is the quickest player he has seen: "He's got to be."

England were indebted to Walker's speed, timing, determination and confident touch for the equaliser. Running on to Harry Kane's magnificent pass over Vitalii Mykolenko, Walker controlled the ball with his right foot, adjusted his body, then feinted to shoot across Georgiy Bushchan. Walker stayed calm as the ball rose up before beating the goalkeeper at his near post.

And so back to Southgate. The tactical concerns, and failure to respond quickly to changes in a game, were highlighted in the Euro 2020 final when Southgate was outthought by Roberto Mancini. Those concerns remain, including the loyalty to two veterans. Harry Maguire is a good defender, and a threat at set pieces, but he needs to be playing regularly and he's not at Manchester United. Against Ukraine, the more mobile Marc Guéhi enhanced his credentials to partner John Stones at centre back when the City man is fit.

Jordan Henderson, already an emblem of Southgate's caution, is not playing in an elite league any more, may lose sharpness further and failed to track Oleksandr Zinchenko's run for Ukraine's goal.

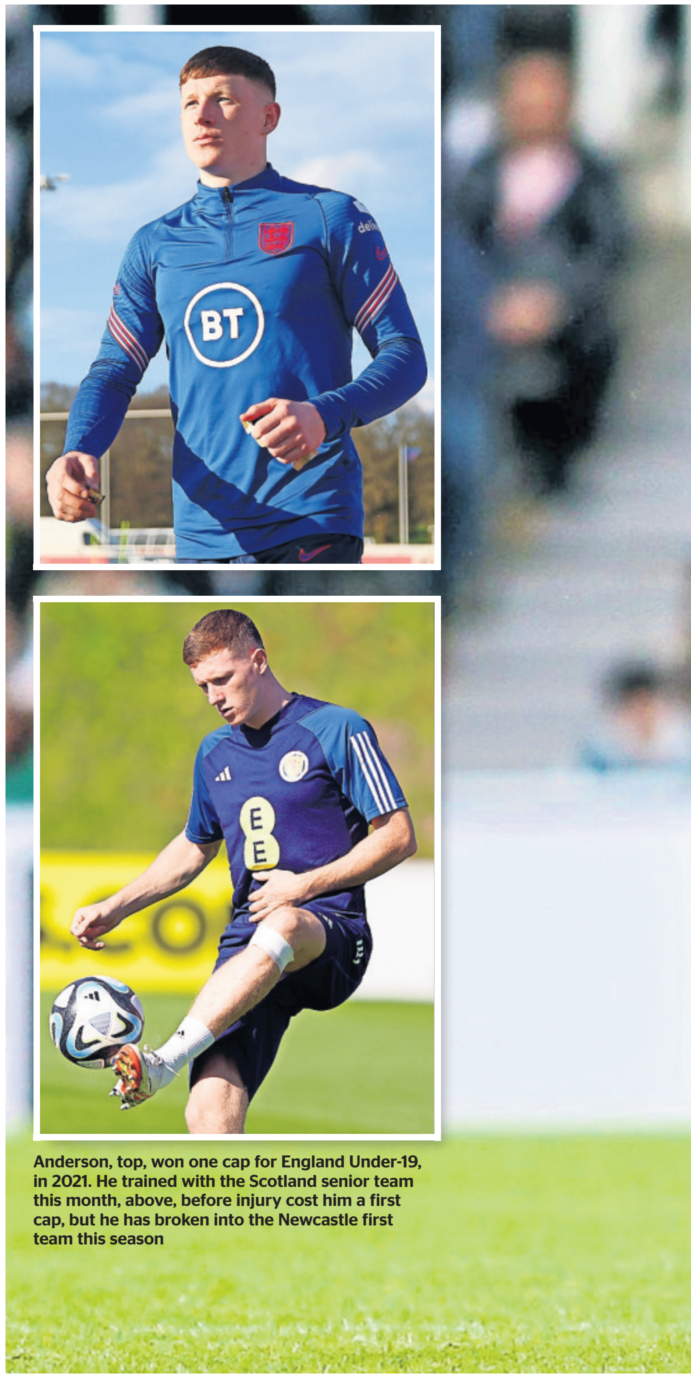
The mess on the left against Ukraine, involving James Maddison, Jude Bellingham and Ben Chilwell, was exploited by Ukraine for their goal and needed sorting out earlier. With Maddison caught between two roles, left-sided and drifting in, Chilwell was isolated and exposed against Viktor Tsygankov and Yukhym Konoplya.

"This week James Maddison was absolutely outstanding in training, so we were looking at him off the wide role," Southgate said of his decision to use the in-form No10 in a hybrid role. Southgate also managed to do what nobody in La Liga has achieved and that was subdue Bellingham. The manager acknowledged that "it was very congested in there, very difficult for all of them to find space".

It's no time to panic, or to call for regime change, and a point against a fired-up Ukraine, playing before their impassioned fans, is no disaster. But this talent pool must not be squandered. France and Portugal look a cut above England but a team of Pickford — Walker, Stones, Guéhi, Luke Shaw — Alexander-Arnold (or Phil Foden), Declan Rice, Bellingham — Bukayo Saka, Kane and Marcus Rashford would surely have the balance, work rate, creativity and cutting edge to progress far in Germany next summer.



Southgate and Walker chat during a Euro 2020 match



Anderson, top, won one cap for England Under-19, in 2021. He trained with the Scotland senior team this month, above, before injury cost him a first cap, but he has broken into the Newcastle first team this season

England eye chance

Martin Hardy

Gareth Southgate said that he still hopes to convince Elliot Anderson that he should commit his international future to England.

The Newcastle United midfielder, 20, has been capped at youth level for Scotland and England and was due to make his senior debut for Scotland against Cyprus in their European Championship qualifying match on Friday. However, after first linking up with the squad last week, he withdrew because of a knee injury.

His absence offered hope that he could still switch countries and led to speculation that Southgate had not given up hope of getting Anderson, a concern Steve Clarke, the Scotland manager, conceded he was powerless to stop.

"It's not something I can control," Clarke said after the 3-0 win in Cyprus. "There's not a lot I can do about it."

When asked if he had sought any assurances from Anderson, Clarke said: "No, he just went home."

Those fears have been borne out by Southgate refusing to rule out an approach for the player after England's 1-1 draw with Ukraine in Poland on Saturday. When asked if he wanted to pinch the attacking midfielder from Scotland, Southgate replied: "I don't know."

Southgate did confirm, though, how much he wants Anderson, who was born in Whitley Bay in the northeast of England, to switch allegiance.

"We liked him and we do like him," Southgate said. "We think he's a player that's doing really well. Obviously, he was called into their [Scotland's] squad earlier in the week and I don't know what the position is at the moment. I saw he pulled out. Let's see, that's something that John McDermott [the FA's technical director] and others at our organisation will be picking up. He's definitely a player we like."

The public declaration to take Anderson back from Scotland is sure to an-


MICHAEL DRIVER/MI NEWS/ALAMY

Five stars who switched sides

Declan Rice
won three caps for Ireland before switching to England in March 2019

Wilfried Zaha
won two caps for England in friendlies under Roy Hodgson, but then switched to Ivory Coast in 2016

Jack Grealish
won multiple Under-21 caps for Ireland but turned down senior call-up before committing to England

Michail Antonio
was called up for England by both Sam Allardyce and Gareth Southgate but never capped before switching to Jamaica in 2021

Folarin Balogun
played for England Under-21 and the former Arsenal striker was also eligible for Nigeria but has now declared for the USA

Scotland v England
Hampden
Tomorrow, 7.45pm
TV: Channel 4
Radio: talkSPORT

to pinch Scotland's Anderson

ger Clarke and his staff before Tuesday's friendly international against England at Hampden Park, which Anderson was due to play in.

Anderson qualifies for Scotland because of a grandmother on his father's side of the family who was born in Glasgow. He has represented Scotland at under-16, under-17 and under-18 level and then switched allegiance to England in March 2021 when he played in a friendly for the under-19 team against Arsenal Under-23.

He was then called up by Scotland Under-21 and made his debut at that level in June 2022 against Belgium.

Anderson, who has been at Newcastle since he was eight years old, made his debut under Steve Bruce in the FA Cup at Arsenal in January 2021. He starred during a loan spell at Bristol Rovers last season in Sky Bet League One and has seen his standing at Newcastle rise since his return this term. Eddie Howe, the Newcastle head coach, said that Anderson had returned in the summer as the fittest player at the club and scored four times in pre-season friendlies. He has not started a game this season but has been used four times as a substitute.

Scotland, though, are hoping to lure Anderson's team-mate Harvey Barnes north of the border. The former Leicester City winger, who moved to St James' Park for £38 million in the summer, has been capped for England at under-18 and under-20 level, has four caps for England Under-21 and has a full England cap after playing 14 minutes of a friendly against Wales in 2020. Since 2020, a player can switch allegiance if they have played no more than three competitive matches at senior level before turning 21.

Barnes, like Anderson, qualifies for Scotland through his grandparents and is thought to be open-minded about a switch. He was not included in Southgate's provisional 55-man squad for last year's World Cup.

Meanwhile, Jordan Pickford has insisted that the England players understand the significance of the rivalry with Scotland.

"Yes. I definitely get it," he said. "I am from Sunderland. All the lads get it. It will be a tough game. Hampden Park, you know what their fans are like, it is something we want to thrive on, we want to go there and have the experience and win the game."

Pickford also offered advice to Harry Maguire, who continues to be picked for England while being omitted for Manchester United by Erik ten Hag.

"Football is never a smooth road and you have just got to be fit, be in the right mindset and Harry is," Pickford said. "He trains well all the time, if he is not picked for his club he is always prepared for that, and when he pulls on the England shirt he does very well and it is good to play as a goalkeeper behind him. Criticism is always going to be a thing. It's about reflecting on your own performances and how can you improve."

Flying Scots invite party-poopers back to Tartan fortress

Scotland are resurgent but England will be out to spoil Hampden party – as they did in 1973, writes **Michael Grant**

In the 151-year history of England playing in Glasgow, none of their northern raids ever felt more triumphant than what came to be known as the St Valentine's Day massacre.

Fifty years ago, the Scottish Football Association, in its wisdom, invited England for a game to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Glasgow was at its wintry worst on February 14, 1973, entombing Hampden in bitter cold which kept the attendance down to just 48,470. There were patches of snow all over the pitch and behind the goals it was white.

There was an appropriately frosty response from the Scottish crowd to the pre-match presentation of a silver salver to Bobby Moore, to mark his 100th England cap. They had a chant for England's golden boy at Hampden: "Bobby Moore, superstar, he walks like a woman and he wears a bra." Different times, the 1970s.

England took Scotland apart. A Martin Peters shot took a huge deflection off Peter Lorimer for an own goal after five minutes, 1-0. Allan Clarke buried a low shot inside the far post, 2-0. Mick Channon attacked a long throw from Martin Chivers to score his first international goal, 3-0. The game was 15 minutes old. In the second half, Peter Shilton shelled a couple of long balls which Chivers and then Clarke raced on to and it was 5-0.

For Scotland, the SFA's supposed celebration was mortifying. In his book *The Hampden Story*, the author Russell Galbraith wrote: "If anyone believed the visitors should show their hosts a little respect and kindness on their hundredth birthday, the final scoreline suggested no one bothered to inform them of this fact."

England in Glasgow: officially the oldest international fixture of them all and, despite what happened in 1973, traditionally the Three Lions' most troublesome one. For its latest chapter tomorrow night, England will run on to the pitch where they have lost more away games (15) than anywhere else.

Curiously, most of the iconic Auld Enemy games have been in London: Scotland's 5-1 "Wembley Wizards" of 1928; England's 9-3 rout in 1961; Scotland self-declaring as unofficial world champions after a swaggering 3-2 win in 1967; the Tartan Army pitch invasion and broken crossbars in 1977; Gazza's dentist's chair at Euro 96.

In contrast, the Hampden clashes were often just a biennial test of England's nerve in a hostile, enormous cauldron. Scotland could always rely on a noisy travelling support in London but the same did not apply in reverse. England fans tended to give Glasgow a miss and crowds as high as 149,415 in 1937, still a European record for an international match, were fiercely partisan. When Scotland scored a last-minute winner in 1929, the noise was so deafening that Alex Jackson, who had gone off injured, could hear it when he was being treated in Glasgow's Victoria Infirmary a mile away. The phrase "the Hampden roar" was coined.

In his history of Scottish football's spiritual home, Galbraith captured the significance of England's visits: "Once every two years it was easy to imagine the great stadium existed for no other purpose than to provide a magnificent stage on which Scotland might inflict some awful, joyful humiliation on their southern neighbours."

It took nine attempts over 21 years for England to record a first win at Hampden, the ground named after an Englishman, John Hampden, who was a parliamentarian in the Civil War.

The balance of power began to change after the Second World War as England went ten games unbeaten from 1952. In 1966, there was Scottish optimism about a home victory weeks before the World Cup, but England triumphed 4-3. "The predominant sound was not the Hampden roar but the eating of words," wrote sports journalist Raymond Jacobs. Hampden then began to lose its mighty aura. Its last 100,000+ attendance was in 1973 and the introduction of seating reduced its capacity to the present 52,000.

Kenny Dalglish sent the ball squirming through Ray Clemence's legs for a Scottish triumph in 1976 but England won on their next three visits. They have not lost at Hampden since a 1-0 defeat to a Richard Gough header in the Rous Cup in 1985. When hooligans travelled north in growing numbers for the 1987 and 1989 matches, there were running battles near Hampden and in Glasgow city centre, and the authorities realised an annual meeting was more trouble than it was worth. England did not return for a decade, when Paul Scholes scored twice in a 2-0 Hampden win in the Euro 2000 play-off first leg. "Away Scholes count double" as the Sunday Herald put it. By then, even the Tartan Army's traditional verbal abuse of Jimmy Hill was beginning to peter out.

Scots have a complicated relationship with the stadium. Many who actually go to games dislike its poor sightlines and complain about transport links. The SFA yearns to square off the two end stands to bring fans closer to the pitch but the cost is prohibitive. The magical turf where Real Madrid reigned in 1960 and Zinédine Zidane created magic in 2002 is in line to be a Euro 2028 host venue.

When it is half-empty, it can seem funereal. Full, it can still feel electrifying. A test in 2018 detected a decibel level of 109 at the start of a Hampden Old Firm game. The highest figure in previous tests at every English Premier League ground was 84 at Old Trafford. The din felt even louder when Spain were beaten 2-0 at Hampden in March, one of ten Scottish wins in their past 11 competitive home games. It has again become what the original Hampden was nicknamed a century and a half ago: a Tartan fortress.

England are 48-41 ahead in the ancient series. Still, their most recent trip to Glasgow in 2017 produced a classic, Leigh Griffiths whipping two free kicks past Joe Hart in the 87th and 89th minutes before Harry Kane scored an even later equaliser for a 2-2 draw.

There is still life in the oldest fixture. And bravery within the SFA, too, for daring to invite England again for its 150th anniversary match after what happened for the 100th. In the historic venue where home fans have only ever shown them contempt, England are about to play their first Hampden "friendly" in 34 years.

Livingstone shows he's not just a 'slogger'



Elizabeth Ammon

England v New Zealand

Ageas Bowl (New Zealand won toss): England beat New Zealand by 79 runs

Liam Livingstone nailed down his place in England's World Cup squad by hitting an unbeaten 95 to help England to beat New Zealand by 79 runs and level the four-match series at 1-1.

There are still discussions to be had about the make-up of England's final 15-man squad to defend their World Cup title but the Lancashire all-rounder — whose place had been called into question with Harry Brook pressing for inclusion — now looks certain to travel to India after yesterday hitting a second consecutive half-century in the space of three days.

There was also a statement performance from Reece Topley with the ball as the Surrey left-arm seamer took three for 27 — outbowling the other two left-arm seamers in the team, David Willey and Sam Curran.

Rain delayed the start and reduced the match to 34 overs a side. When England finally did come out to bat, they were soon wishing the rain had not gone away. Trent Boult marked his return to the New Zealand one-day side for the first time in a year by taking three wickets in eight balls in his 100th ODI as England's top four made only eight runs between them. The home team slumped to 28 for four in 7.2 overs, with Boult and Matt Henry, the new-ball pair, taking advantage of some helpful bowling conditions.

Boult's international future was in doubt after he negotiated a release from his central contract to allow for greater availability for franchise leagues, but his class has never been in doubt, and he was always likely to be wanted by New Zealand for the World Cup.

He went for only three runs in three overs in a world-class opening spell — squaring up Jonny Bairstow, whose leading edge looped up to cover where Mitchell Santner took a spectacular leaping catch, before Joe Root was undone second ball by a superb inswinger and Ben Stokes gave a tame catch to mid-wicket.

Brook was given another chance at the top of the order, with Jason Roy again missing because of a back spasm and Dawid Malan absent after the birth of his second child, but the Yorkshireman failed to take advantage. Having made a sedate 25 in the first ODI, Brook made only two from 12 balls here before miscuing Henry to mid-off.

Jos Buttler led a brief counterpunch, hitting four boundaries in 30 from 25 balls, but he fell to Santner as England slumped to 55 for five.

Livingstone came to the crease in the 13th over to join Moeen Ali and the pair added 48 in 50 balls, both pouncing on any width. When Ali was dismissed for 33 from 32 balls to become Tim Southee's first victim of the day, Livingstone decided the time had come to swing harder, bringing up his fifty off 47 balls, including taking Southee for 17 off one over. He combined with Sam Curran for a partnership of 112 in 77 balls and although Livingstone ran out of time to make his first ODI century, finishing unbeaten on 95, he had made sure England had a defendable score.

New Zealand had the best of the batting conditions as the sun emerged in Southampton, but their chase began badly as Willey bowled Finn Allen with the second ball of the innings with a beautiful delivery that straightened after pitching and went through Allen's defensive shot. Gus Atkinson removed the other opener, Devon Conway, and New Zealand were wobbling when Will Young was run out by millimetres after some athletic work by Willey — a dismissal that could have been avoided had Young put in a dive.

But it was Topley who made the biggest impact of England's bowlers, dismissing both Tom Latham and Glenn Phillips after a 56-run partnership that was starting to hurt England. Rachin Ravindra then edged Topley to slip having lasted only two balls.

Daryl Mitchell, who had been so destructive in the first match, played another dominant innings of 57 from 52 balls before toe-ending to mid-off, giving Ali his 100th ODI wicket and leaving the touring side on 139 for seven. The tail was cleaned up efficiently, with the last three wickets falling in 11 balls for seven runs. "I think that's what I've been crying out for," Livingstone said. "I've been looking for one-day cricket to have proper time in the middle. It's weird, I've won the [T20] World Cup [in 2022] but probably had the worst year of my career for form and had two bad injuries.

"My role over the last few years has been in the lower order. You only get to do what's in front of you and sometimes, it can look pretty ugly.

"I understand that, but I feel like I'm a better player than someone who comes in and just slogs it at the end and thankfully, today, I probably proved that to a lot of people.

"We've got a lot of confidence and depth in our batting line-up. It's something we can use in games like that."

If anyone is going to be left out to accommodate Brook, it isn't going to be Livingstone. England's opening match of the World Cup is on October 5 — against New Zealand in Ahmedabad — and the selection panel will need to make some decisions about the make-up of the 15-man squad and who they might take as travelling reserves.

PHILIP BROWN/POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES



Livingstone, inset, led England's recovery with a mature, unbeaten 95 before Willey, main, took three wickets as New Zealand fell well short in their run chase

Scoreboard

ENGLAND	R	B	M
J M Bairstow c Santner b Boult	**6**	8	9
H C Brook c Allen b Henry	**2**	12	36
J E Root lbw b Boult	**0**	2	2
B A Stokes c Southee b Boult	**1**	10	8
***†J C Buttler** b Santner	**30**	25	35
M M Ali c Phillips b Southee	**33**	32	53
L S Livingstone not out	**95**	78	98
S M Curran c Boult b Southee	**42**	35	60
D J Willey not out	**7**	2	4
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 7)	**10**		
TOTAL (7 wkts, 34 overs)	**226**		

A A P Atkinson and R J W Topley did not bat.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-6, 3-8, 4-28, 5-55, 6-103, 7-215

Bowling: Boult 7-1-37-3; Henry 7-0-42-1; Santner 7-0-38-1; Southee 7-0-65-2; Ravindra 4-0-32-0; Phillips 2-0-9-0.

NEW ZEALAND	R	B	M
F H Allen b Willey	**0**	2	2
D P Conway c Buttler b Atkinson	**14**	24	41
W A Young run out (Willey)	**33**	39	51
D J Mitchell c Topley b Ali	**57**	52	73
***†T W M Latham** c Buttler b Topley	**19**	22	35
G D Phillips c and b Topley	**2**	4	7
R Ravindra c Root b Topley	**4**	2	1
M J Santner c Bairstow b Ali	**4**	8	15
M J Henry not out	**3**	3	8
T G Southee c Bairstow b Willey	**4**	3	3
T A Boult c Curran b Willey	**1**	2	2
Extras (lb 2, w 4)	**6**		
TOTAL (26.5 overs)	**147**		

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-49, 3-55, 4-111, 5-119, 6-123, 7-139, 8-140, 9-145

Bowling: Willey 5.5-0-34-3; Topley 7-0-27-3; Atkinson 5-0-23-1; Curran 4-0-31-0; Ali 5-0-30-2.

Umpires A Holdstock (SA) & M Saggers (Eng).
TV umpire P Reiffel (Aus)
Man of the match
L Livingstone (Eng)

Series details
First ODI New Zealand beat England by eight wickets, *Cardiff*
Second England beat New Zealand by 79 runs, *Southampton*
Third Sept 13, *Kia Oval*
Fourth Sept 15, *Lord's*

Broad: Flintoff is hero to England squad and will inspire them

Elizabeth Ammon

Stuart Broad has hailed Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff as a legend of the game and says his presence among the England coaching staff will be an "inspiration" for the players.

Speaking on Sky Sports before the second one-day international against New Zealand at the Ageas Bowl, the recently retired Broad said that Flintoff would have been the role model for many of the England players, and that it was "great to see him" back in the game.

Flintoff, 45, who retired from international cricket in 2009 having played 79 Tests and 141 one-day internationals, suffered serious facial injuries in an accident in a three-wheeled buggy while filming for the BBC show *Top Gear* at Dunsfold Park Aerodrome in Surrey last December.

The former England all-rounder has since quit his role as the programme's co-presenter and has returned to the sport in which he made his name as one of the heroes of the 2005 Ashes.

Rob Key, the managing director of England men's cricket, is a close friend of Flintoff and is helping him to move slowly back into the cricketing arena, which started this month with some work with England Under-19. Flintoff is now working as an unpaid coaching consultant for this four-match one-day series.



Flintoff has looked at ease in his role as a consultant coach

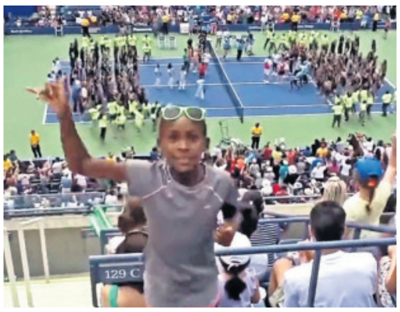
Broad, who played with Flintoff when he first broke into the England ranks in 2006, said that Flintoff seems to have slotted back into being on the cricket field easily and has not lost his hand-eye co-ordination despite his injuries.

"He's great," Broad said. "Look at the players in this side and it would have been Freddie that inspired them — he is an icon and a legend and just to spend some time with him and pick his brain, the aura that he has within the group.

"For him, the opportunity to pull on those three lions is special and I saw him mitting to Mark Wood and I can't imagine he's done loads of mitting [using a baseball mitt to catch a bowler's deliveries], he was really good at it. Certainly better than [David] Saker whose job [as bowling coach] it is to catch it."

ELSA/GETTY IMAGES





Gauff with her first grand-slam title and at the US Open aged eight, below

Gauff unlikely to suffer fate that befell Raducanu



Stuart Fraser

Tennis Correspondent, New York

Coco Gauff's journey to grand-slam glory in New York followed the more conventional route for a teenager. Early signs of talent at a young age were followed by an apprenticeship on the main tour before the crowning major triumph at 19 years old.

This is why the American tennis great Chris Evert could not help but think of Emma Raducanu in the aftermath of Gauff's dramatic US Open victory on Saturday. Two years after the British qualifier, then aged 18, produced one of the unlikeliest runs to a grand-slam title in history, she is ranked No185 in the world after struggling to cope with the rigours of the tour. As it stands, there is still no confirmed comeback date after three operations on both wrists and her left ankle in May.

By comparison, Gauff's rise to a career-high world ranking of No3 has been gradual and steady. She showed frustration at times that the silverware did not come quickly — her third of five WTA Tour titles, at the Auckland Classic in January, was three years after her first at the Linz Open — but hindsight shows she has developed a well-rounded approach to the sport as a result.

"I am glad Coco Gauff did not win as a younger teenager because it can be a bad thing," Evert, the 18-times grand-slam singles champion and ESPN pundit, said. "Look at Emma Raducanu. It puts a lot of pressure on the player because they are not emotionally developed yet and cannot handle it. Coco is now ready to win."

Equally as impressive as Gauff's speed on the court is her maturity off it. For someone who is yet to depart her teens, she speaks with striking candour on all manner of issues. At the age of 16 she delivered a moving speech at a Black Lives Matter rally to protest over the death of George Floyd.

This level-headedness is helped by a strong and stable support team. Guided by Roger Federer's Team8 management company, she has gradually added to a commercial portfolio that is estimated by the American magazine Forbes to be worth £9.5 million a year — Raducanu was estimated to bring in £12 million of sponsorship.

Gauff's parents, Corey and Candi, are a regular presence on tour but have taken a step back this summer. Having coached his daughter since she started playing at the age of six, Corey thought it best that she bring in a new coaching duo of the Spaniard Pere Riba and American Brad Gilbert. Gauff has since described her father as a "captain" who still provides scouting reports.

"Her parents have done a great job," Evert said. "They have given her space to get BG [Gilbert] and make her own decision. That was not easy for them. Coco is an extraordinary player and an even more extraordinary human being. She has a social conscience."

The hiring of Gilbert alongside Riba was a masterstroke. While Riba, a former top-65 player, brings recent experience of the WTA Tour, having coached China's Zheng Qinwen, Gilbert brings a vast wealth of knowledge as a former world No 4 who went on to coach Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick and Andy Murray before covering hundreds of matches for ESPN.

"Four days after I started with her, I called Mary Joe [Fernández, his ESPN colleague] and said Coco was going to win the US Open," Gilbert said. "In the hotel in Washington I circled nine [on a calendar], the date of the final." Gilbert was right. After losing in the first round of Wimbledon, she won the title in Washington to kickstart a run of 18 wins in 19 matches. She looked more composed than ever, coming through several tight moments when she could have easily folded under pressure. This was most evident in Saturday's final, when she defeated the new world No1, Aryna Sabalenka, from a set down in front of 24,000 screaming New Yorkers.



Gilbert says he knew after four days of coaching Gauff that she would win the US Open

"Coco is an amazing kid, who is incredibly humble and hardworking," Gilbert said. "The thing she figured out was learning how to win when she was average [this is linked to Gilbert's influence as he once authored a book titled *Winning Ugly*]. She learnt how to problem-solve and figure out a way to win when not at your best. Sometimes that is how you become a great player.

"For me the most important thing was understanding her strengths and helping her understand her opponents' weaknesses and strengths. To navigate her game better, we moved her back on the return. I got 100 texts about her forehand — 'Fix her forehand' — and that was never part of the equation. It didn't need to be; she had other strengths."

After the rise of Carlos Alcaraz, the crowning of another young superstar in Gauff is a stimulating moment for the sport — her US Open win was so wide-reaching that she received a congratulatory public message from Joe Biden, the US president. With a wealth of experience under her belt on the tour already, multiple major titles are likely.

"She's only just getting started," Gilbert said. "She's 19, works hard and wants to get better. Look at Novak Djokovic at 36: he only wants to get better. When you constantly challenge yourself, good things happen. It's a great start and I'm glad they gave me a chance to be part of it."

Hewett wins all-British final against partner Reid

Stuart Fraser

Alfie Hewett claimed US Open glory for a fourth time by defeating his friend and doubles partner, Gordon Reid, in the first all-British men's wheelchair singles final at a grand-slam event.

The 25-year-old from Norwich claimed a 6-4, 6-3 victory in one hour and 29 minutes on the Louis Armstrong Stadium, which is the second biggest court at Flushing Meadows. A ratio of 22 winners to 14 unforced errors was too much for his Scottish opponent.

Hewett has now won eight major singles titles overall and is only one Wimbledon trophy short of completing a career grand slam. He has finished runner-up twice at the All England Club over the past two years.

Reid, 31, was contesting his first grand-slam singles final since Wimbledon in 2021 after overcoming a persistent wrist injury. The only time he had previously faced Hewett in a final of this stature was at the 2016 Rio Paralympics, when he triumphed 6-2, 6-1 to win gold.

The first set yesterday was tight before Reid gifted it to Hewett with a double fault when he was serving at set point and 5-4 down. Reid struggled to recover his confidence on serve, hitting a total of eight double faults, as Hewett eased across the finish line in the second set.



Hewett has won the wheelchair singles title four times

"It's not easy playing your doubles partner in a grand-slam final," Hewett said. "It's nice to see Gordon back where he belongs. To be holding this trophy for a fourth time is something I'm really proud of."

There was also British success in the junior wheelchair events. Dahnon Ward, 18, will travel home with two trophies in his luggage after winning the boys' singles and the doubles with Joshua Johns, also 18.

An extraordinary streak continued in the women's wheelchair singles. Diede de Groot, the 26-year-old from the Netherlands, defeated Japan's Yui Kamiji 6-2, 6-2 to win a 13th consecutive grand-slam title, in a run that stretches back to the 2020 US Open. She has now completed three calendar grand slams in the past three years and has 20 major singles titles overall.

Men's final online now

Will Novak Djokovic win his 24th grand-slam singles title? Or can Daniil Medvedev cause an upset?

Read Stuart Fraser's match report at: thetimes.co.uk

Wales forced to dig deep to

Wales	**32**
Fiji	**26**

Elgan Alderman Bordeaux

Had Semi Radradra caught the bouncing ball out wide, with nothing in front of him but open space, this could have been a match thrown away and a World Cup abyss for Wales. He dropped it.

Part excellent, part dumb — that was Warren Gatland's assessment. Facing their quadrennial banana skin, Wales had the minerals. They knew Fiji's lightning bolts but they had just enough to ensure they were not burned, holding on heartily in the final play.

Just.

Eighteen points up with ten minutes to go, they almost lost it. "We need to have a thorough review of that [last 15 minutes]," Gatland, the head coach, said. "We made some dumb decisions in terms of discipline and penalties when we were in control of the game. The guys put a real shift in today and, when you're 32-14 up, you keep your accuracy and discipline and you don't allow them any opportunities. That, for me, is the biggest disappointment.

"I go back four, five years ago. We had been through this process where the team was growing and it took us a bit of time to comfortably implement the game management and understanding, players not giving away stupid penalties and putting us under pressure.

"So today there were incidents of that. It's making sure we're honest and learn from those situations and how we manage things going forward and [with] everyone getting better."

This match was always going to reveal so much about whether Wales will be a footnote in this tournament. After four months of sweat and talking about rising above expectations, they have a result to gesture towards and know that even defeat by Australia in 13 days' time would not be fatal.

It was the type of fixture that puts years on a supporter's life, yet makes it all worth living. Communal grunts squeezed out of every fan when Viliame Mata and Vinaya Habosi put in huge hits on Nick Tompkins and Gareth Thomas. How Fiji came at Wales, flying into contact and finding pals in support. They could still progress to the knockouts with the tools they have, and will enrich every occasion. Wales threw it around, the antithesis of "how to beat Fiji", putting themselves in trouble but thrilling all comers. It meant they were overwhelmed for possession and territory, both figures below 40 per cent. They made 248 tackles — Will Rowlands, Thomas and Jac Morgan leading the way with 20-plus each — compared with Fiji's 70, conceding 17 penalties to Fiji's nine.

They will be regarded as fortunate to have had only Corey Domachowski sent to the sin-bin in the final ten minutes. Waisea Nayacalevu would not be drawn into criticising Matthew Carley, the referee, but while the head coach Simon Raiwalui spoke diplomatically, the Fiji captain smirked.

What a first half it had been: two tries apiece and centres in both jerseys scything through. Wales started terrifically, the opposite of what befell them four years ago in this fixture. From Fiji's first carry, Rowlands tackled an isolated Albert Tuisue and won a penalty, Dan Biggar slotting the kick from more than 40 metres. The fly half raised the tempo — Wales wanted a high percentage of ball-in-play — and kicked a penalty to touch quickly into the Fiji half.

Scorers: Wales: Tries Adams (6), North (28), Rees-Zammit (48), Dee (66). **Cons** Biggar 3. **Pens** Biggar 3 (1, 23). **Fiji: Tries** Nayacalevu (12), Tagitagivalu (16), Tuisova (73), Doge (79). **Cons** Lomani 2, Tela.

Wales L Williams; L Rees-Zammit, G North, N Tompkins, J Adams (rep: R Dyer 59min); D Biggar (S Costelow 67), G Davies (T Williams 37-41, T Williams 52); G Thomas (C Domachowski 63, sin-bin 68-78), R Elias (E Dee 52), T Francis (D Lewis 63), W Rowlands, A Beard (D Jenkins 59), A Wainwright (G Thomas 70), J Morgan, T Faletau (T Reffell 59).
Fiji I Droasese (S Maqala 75); S Ravutaumada, W Nayacalevu, S Radradra, V Habosi (J Tuisova 53); T Tela, F Lomani (S Kuruvoli 52); E Mawi (P Ravai 57), S Matavesi (T Ikanivere 67), L Tagi (M Doge 67), I Nasilasila, T A Cirikidaveta (T Mayanavanua 70), A Tuisue (L Botia 59), L Tagitagivalu (sin-bin 65-75), V Mata.
Referee M Carley (Eng).







Rees-Zammit finishes with aplomb for Wales's third try after Adams had swung the momentum with this huge hit on fellow

Simple hands in the back line from Tompkins sent George North up the middle before Liam Williams's miss-pass to Josh Adams, who stepped inside to score.

While no one present could take a calming breath, fortune switched. Wales handled well from deep but Adams was in touch. Then Nayacalevu broke through the tackles of Biggar and Aaron Wainwright, stepping past Tompkins. The magic continued with a first-phase try from a scrum more than 60 metres out. A half-break by Nayacalevu, an inside pass to Radradra and the finish by Lekima Tagitagivalu, the open-side flanker. Everyone knows Fiji's gifted players run hard with hands of silk; stopping it is another matter.

Biggar kicked a penalty from 45 metres to halve the deficit. Still Wales offloaded with abandon, the rare sight of Tomas Francis involved in interplay, the forwards advancing through gaps in the middle of the park. With rare territory, they went through waves of forward attack before Tompkins's delayed pass on the gainline attracted two defenders and North swerved over the line. Biggar converted and Wales led 18-14 — more than a point a minute.

After Eroni Mawi was deemed to have lost control of the ball on the line, Mata fired into the Wales defence with a run-up that started at the Atlantic coast. Under immense pressure, the young captain Morgan stole the ball and Wales attacked frantically on their own line, Tompkins's offload dropped by North. The half-time whistle saved them further punishment.

Despite Biggar's missed penalty, Wales owned the next 25 minutes, born from an unusual, inspired source. Tompkins stepped through on the left and excellent offloading took Wales up to the tryline. With penalty advantage, Morgan sent out a wobbly crossfield kick. Habosi messed up and Louis Rees-Zammit picked up to run in, Biggar converting from the touchline. "It was called before and the ball should

Biggar's angry pragmatism keeps his side off canvas

Steve James



As the cliché goes via Mike Tyson, everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face — or in this case, until the flying Fijians come charging at you. On one occasion, when the huge No 8 Viliame Mata ran at full tilt at the Welsh defence from a distance, it was genuinely one of the more frightening sights you will ever see on a rugby field.

To say Wales were rattled in Bordeaux would be the greatest of understatements. They were hanging on by their fingernails at the death.

You only had to watch and listen to the excitable, ever-demanding Dan Biggar at fly half to recognise the difficulties his side encountered. By half-time he was in such a state — even though Wales were leading 18-14 — that the television coverage had to apologise for his language.

Mind you, that was pretty understandable because centres Nick Tompkins and George North had just decided to try to run the ball from their own line. Biggar was making the very fair point, with concomitant expletives, that the ball was much better off in the stand at that point. It was one of those nights when, although Wales won, too often they made life extremely difficult for themselves and, quite frankly, Fiji did not have much luck.

Wales's plan was obvious. It was a mix of structure and pace, which can be a tricky blend to find because they do not always lend themselves naturally to each other. And too often they tended to the sloppy and imprecise, which is deadly against such lavishly gifted athletes and ball-players as the Fijians. Falling off a bucketload of first-half tackles doesn't help either.

The very start of the match had signalled that Welsh plan and how its slick execution could be so effective. The lock Adam Beard soared high in the air to take a catch and around him his fellow forwards in red formed a maul that garnered enough yardage for scrum half Gareth Davies to hoist a box-kick high. Though the ball was not won immediately, when Fiji carried it back the other lock, Will Rowlands, made a tackle, rose to his feet and won the turnover. Biggar duly kicked the penalty. Perfect.

248
Wales made 248 tackles against Fiji – the most by any team in a Rugby World Cup match, according to Opta

Fiji kicked to the corner to set up a driving lineout but Wales immediately hit the catcher and drove the Fijians swiftly towards the touchline to cause disruption.

When Wales soon won a penalty in midfield, Biggar kicked it quickly to the halfway line, rushing the heavy Fijian forwards backwards. They thought they could tire their opponents, but ultimately it was the Fijians who finished the stronger. Wales tackled heroically at the end, but whatever happened to their famed fitness? From the lineout, North surged through and it was not long before the wing Josh Adams, a hat-trick hero against the same opponents in the 2019 World Cup, was over.

Anyone going away from the plan? Well, they faced that inevitable wrath from Biggar. So, when North went solo rather than using the support provided, and conceded a penalty that Teti Tela really should have kicked, Biggar reminded him very forcibly what he should have done. Saying that, it was Biggar who missed the original tackle when centre Waisea Nayacalevu scored Fiji's first try.

The worry about the centre partnership of Tompkins and North has always been their defensive communication (although Semi Radradra's defence is a lot more leaky) and soon they were exposed as Fiji scored a second try.

Wales needed the control back. A Biggar penalty and then a couple of driving lineouts brought that, as well as the wonderful upside of the Tompkins-

deny flying Fiji

JAN KRUGER/GETTY IMAGES; DAVID DAVIES/PA; ADAM PRETTY/GETTY IMAGES; ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES







wing Ravutaumada, but Radradra's fumble right at the death could have prevented Fiji's disappointment at the final whistle

have gone to Biggs [Biggar], but it came to me," Morgan said. Then, with Wales passing loosely in their own 22, Morgan turned to his boot again to clear.

Fiji brought Levani Botia and Josua Tuisova, presumed starters, off the bench, the latter moving Radradra to the wing. Danger was all around but after a string of nervous infringements, Botia knocked on as he crossed the line. Nayacalevu did the same as Fiji again roared into the 22, and Biggar's banana kick bounced magisterially out for a 50:22. Tagitagivalu was shown a yellow card for bringing down the first maul; the second ended with Elliot Dee's try.

Domachowski followed to the sin-bin for persistent team infringements and, after Fiji camped on Wales's line, Tuisova scored. Peni Ravai had a try ruled out for a double movement before Mesake Doge made it over from close range and it was 32-26 with 80 seconds remaining. Onwards Fiji rushed, unstoppably. Wide it went, the great Radradra ready to be a hero and leave a touchline conversion for victory. He shelled it. Goodness me, goodness all.

Gatland considered hiding in the changing room for the final seven minutes. Imagine watching, unable to influence the match any further. Biggar, on the day of his late mother's birthday, had to do just that, having been replaced by Sam Costelow. "It was absolutely exhausting the last ten minutes," Biggar said. "The clock felt like it didn't move, we put everything into it." Somehow they had everything to show for it.



Biggar told North to kick the ball off to end the half instead of running from deep

North alliance as the Saracens man went to the line, got obliterated in the tackle but still popped up a delightful pass for North to surge through.

But Welsh mistakes kept coming. Beard could not take the restart and the prop Gareth Thomas clearly thought he could take a cool drink before making a pass, so long did he take about it, and he was predictably smashed, the ball being lost.

And when Wales reverted to a driving lineout, they botched that to the extent that Fiji won the put-in at the scrummage. It was hooker Ryan Elias who copped it from Biggar this time.

Biggar clearly hadn't calmed down because he missed a simple penalty at the start of the second half. It required two excellent kicks to restore Welsh order. The first was from the full back Liam Williams to the corner and the second, rather surprisingly, was from flanker and captain Jac Morgan, whose cross-kick eventually resulted in a try for Louis Rees-Zammit.

Now Adams made the sort of tackle on winger Selestino Ravutaumada that will be replayed throughout the tournament and long beyond. It appeared a defining moment of the game, with a concerted siege on the Wales line repelled, and when Biggar achieved a brilliant 50:22 kick he was now screaming with joy rather than anger.

Replacement Elliot Dee plunged over from the driving lineout and Wales thought that was that at 32-14, because Biggar, the angry talisman, departed. But Fiji had other ideas in a pulsating finish, as well as two more tries. They were only an agonising knock-on away from another. Wales were lucky (they might have had a lot more yellow cards) and will need to improve.

World Cup overview

Try of the weekend

Ange Capuozzo's try against Namibia showed Italy's attacking potential. After being released down the left from a set play, Capuozzo passed to Monty Ioane before receiving the ball back from his fellow wing. The exchange left Namibia scrambling and a touch of elusive footwork from Capuozzo finished the job.



Player of the weekend



Who else but George Ford? On a night where everything seemed set to implode for England after Tom Curry's red card, he gave the most assured of fly half displays to guide England to an ugly yet memorable win. With ball in hand or on foot, he seldom made an error in Marseille.

Stat of the weekend

80% **Japan's World Cup win rate over their past ten matches. They won one of the previous 24**

Team of the weekend

1 P Schoeman (Scotland)
2 P Mauvaka (France)
3 T Tupou (Australia)
4 A Faktava (Japan)
5 T Flament (France)
6 C Lawes (England)
8 G Alldritt (France)
7 P-S du Toit (S Africa)
9 J Gibson-Park (Ireland)
10 G Ford (England)
12 B Aki (Ireland)
13 R Ioane (N Zealand)
11 M Telea (N Zealand)
15 B Donaldson (Australia)
14 K-L Arendse (S Africa)

Chile impress on their debut

Chile proved that they can hold their own on their first World Cup appearance, giving Japan a few frights before going down 42-12 to the 2019 quarter-finalists yesterday.

The South American nation, who are the lowest-ranked team at the tournament, scored two tries and were only nine points down after 50 minutes before Japan's superior fitness proved crucial.

"Amazing day for Chile rugby, for our rugby history and for the World Cup," the Chile head coach, Pablo Lemoine, said.

Japan know plenty about being underdogs at the World Cup and their head coach, Jamie Joseph, was impressed with the raucous Chile support in Toulouse. "The support for their team was amazing," Joseph said. "They cheered for everything, as the Japanese do."



Rodrigo Fernández, the Chile fly half, celebrates his side's first World Cup try

Namibia look to Uruguay

While Chile are revelling in the novelty of a debut World Cup, other minnows are more battle-hardened. Namibia's 52-8 defeat by Italy on Saturday was their 23rd World Cup loss — from a total of 23 games.

"They never gave up," Allister Coetzee, the Namibia head coach, said of his players. "Towards the end it ballooned out a bit, but that is the difference in conditioning when you come up against a Tier One country."

With New Zealand and France up next, Namibia's clash with Uruguay on September 27 is the only realistic chance of breaking their duck.

Romania way off old pace

Romania, once a significant rugby force during the amateur era, provided the latest evidence of their steep decline as Ireland defeated them 82-8 on Saturday.

They were no match for the No1-ranked side and this rout meant they have leaked 226 points in the past four matches, with Ireland the only opponent ranked in the top ten.

"One has to accept this is the reality, the difference between us and others," Eugen Apjok, the Romania head coach, said. "Being together for a few days, it is impossible to achieve miracles."

Suffocated Scots already facing vicious survival fight

South Africa	**18**
Scotland	**3**

Mark Palmer Scottish Rugby Correspondent, Marseille

High up in the towering stands of the Stade Vélodrome, Felix Jones, the South Africa assistant coach, flashed his traffic light bulbs to indicate to the players whether they should kick at goal or for the corner.

But while South Africa motored to victory in the second half, Scotland's attacking game was stuck on red. Much as Gregor Townsend's side stayed in the game by tooth, nail and sheer force of will, they ultimately fell victim to a quickfire double Springbok salvo early in the second half. The Scots now face three must-win matches against Tonga, Romania and Ireland to stand a chance of making it out of a brutally, ludicrously tough pool.

Scotland were brave and belligerent and had little to reproach themselves about when it came to countering South Africa's physicality but they will certainly be asking questions of the Australian referee, Angus Gardner, and the rest of the officiating team after a gruesome-looking incident barely two minutes in went unreviewed.

Jesse Kriel, the South Africa centre, appeared to make head-on-head contact with Jack Dempsey in a collision. It seemed absurd that nobody in a position to request a second look believed it was required, especially in the context of Tom Curry's dismissal in this very stadium not 24 hours previously.

Nonetheless, the Springboks were good value for their win; their power, control and ability suffocated Scotland's more expansive hopes.

There were a few anxious moments early on for the Scots; easy points gifted to South Africa without the defending champions having to do much to earn them. A lineout was overthrown and surrendered to Jasper Wiese; Finn Russell was charged down by Franco Mostert trying to clear from his own line; Blair Kinghorn spilt two high balls; Pierre Schoeman took down a scrum.

Thankfully for Scotland, Manie Libbok once more proved fallible from the tee, but he wasn't so forgiving when presented with a second shot at goal minutes later after Russell was pulled up for a deliberate knock-on.

Townsend's men were struggling for any kind of toehold. Another botched lineout — the ball flying through the hands of Jamie Ritchie at the tail — put them on the back foot again and the Springbok juggernaut clicked through the gears. As the Scotland players reached for the cold towels at the half-way point in the opening period, you wished they could reach inside their skulls and apply some balm to their overheating brains. They looked scrambled, rushed and confused.

To their credit, they pulled themselves together, even if temperatures — and hackles — were raised as a scuffle broke out on and behind the touchline after Ben White and Darcy Graham combined to persuade Damian de Allende over it. Ritchie and Eben Etzebeth exchanged pleasantries, while Rory Darge was right in the thick of it, but Gardner wisely deduced that a calming word would suffice.

The Australian was soon involved again as Russell took a blow to the ribs in an inadvertent collision with Kurt-Lee Arendse. The vast Scotland contingent in the Vélodrome signalled loudly that the Springbok wing had deliberately elbowed their favourite son, but there didn't look to be much in it. By this time, Libbok had kicked a second penalty after Sione Tuipulotu ran across the face of his own posts, was downed by Cheslin Kolbe and held on.

The big attacking opportunity that Scotland had craved arrived on the half-hour. It came and went in a flash, a lovely little midfield move releasing Graham for a sprint on the left. The Edinburgh man's first action was a glorious dummy, but with Duhan van der Merwe screaming for the ball outside him, Graham was indecisive and possession was immediately surrendered.

There was so much to like about the way that Scotland fought fire with fire on the gainline, and spirits were further raised among the pack when they won a brilliant maul turnover and two scrum penalties. The second was in

Springboks show their colours

South Africa employed a traffic-light signal system — the head coach Jacques Nienaber said it was for injuries rather than tactics — but the attack coach Felix Jones shone a red light in the first half to the players, who opted to kick for goal, rather than the corner, from a penalty.





Peak conditioning has been four years in making for Irish

Peter O'Reilly Bordeaux

Of the 12 tries that Ireland racked up against Romania on Saturday, surely the one that pleased Andy Farrell most was the last, which was scored in added time by the flanker Tadhg Beirne. A spectacular, length-of-the-pitch effort, it showed a relentless desire to boost their points difference — which could easily be a determining factor by the end of this attritional-looking group.

Even allowing for the fact that Romania are clearly the weakest side in pool B, what that final try in the 82-8 rout illustrated was that this is probably the fittest Ireland team ever. Playing at blind-side flanker meant that Beirne had to cover considerably more ground than he does in his more usual role as lock, yet here he was, galloping hard to stay in support of Garry Ringrose after 80 minutes of slog in the intense heat.

Peter O'Mahony was another being asked to play in a more aerobically demanding position than usual, at open-side, yet he too went the full distance and he, too, scored twice — including one mildly acrobatic touchdown. This from a grafter who celebrates his 34th birthday next weekend.

If Ireland have taken their conditioning to another level under their fitness coach, Jason Cowman, they were surely motivated by the memory of another steaming-hot day four years ago in Shizuoka, when they finished second-best to Japan on the scoreboard and also on fitness. Farrell was Ireland's defence coach that day and he was quietly bewitched by Japan's attack, with its speed of movement, interplays and sudden shifts in direction. He also recognised that to emulate that style would require a remarkable level of fitness.

Romania are nothing like that Japan team, but the conditions in Bordeaux were punishing. While most weather apps measured the temperature in the mid-30s, at pitchside it was closer to 40C. Whenever Johnny Sexton was kicking penalties to touch, it was noticeable that he chose the shaded side of the pitch where possible. These were perfect conditions to test the quality of the work done in pre-season.

What pleased the coaching staff most was that Ireland got stronger as the game went on and finished at full pelt. For the defence coach, Simon Easterby, this was vindication of a warm-up strategy that was markedly different in 2019.

"Very rarely did we train without the ball in pre-season," Easterby said. "It

How they stand

Pool A
France 27 New Zealand 13; Italy 52 Namibia 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Italy	1	1	0	0	52	8	1	5
France	1	1	0	0	27	13	0	4
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	1	0	0	1	13	27	0	0
Namibia	1	0	0	1	8	52	0	0

Pool B
Ireland 82 Romania 8; South Africa 18 Scotland 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Ireland	1	1	0	0	82	8	1	5
South Africa	1	1	0	0	18	3	0	4
Tonga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	1	0	0	1	3	18	0	0
Romania	1	0	0	1	8	82	0	0

Pool C
Australia 35 Georgia 15; Wales 32 Fiji 26

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Australia	1	1	0	0	35	15	1	5
Wales	1	1	0	0	32	26	1	5
Fiji	1	0	0	1	26	32	2	2
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgia	1	0	0	1	15	35	0	0

Pool D
England 27 Argentina 10; Japan 42 Chile 12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Japan	1	1	0	0	42	12	1	5
England	1	1	0	0	27	10	0	4
Samoa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argentina	1	0	0	1	10	27	0	0
Chile	1	0	0	1	12	42	0	0


Arendse scores the second try after a no-look kick from fly half Libbok, inset

range for Russell, who made it a three-point game at the break.

Many of the half-time conversations around the stands involved fans studying footage of that Kriel/Dempsey collision. It didn't look any better for the South Africa centre or Gardner.

The Springboks, for their part, lost Etzebeth to injury, but your heart hardly bled for them when the replacement was RG Snyman.

Just after the restart, Libbok passed up an easy three points with a grimly poor penalty, but South Africa were straight back on the front foot as a lovely through-the-legs pass from Faf de Klerk allowed some of the bigger men to display some delicate touches.

Arendse was well wrapped up by Kinghorn, but the full back unluckily knocked on and South Africa went again. After they banged on the front door for a time, Pieter-Steph du Toit smashed straight through it from close range. Libbok missed his kick but there was now daylight between the teams.

Almost straight away, the Springboks had another. This time, Libbok's boot was to the fore in a much more positive sense, the DHL Stormers man dinking a beauty of a cross-kick into the space behind Van der Merwe. On to it in a flash was Arendse, who duly landed what felt like a killer blow in the corner. De Klerk took over the kicking duties and split the posts from the touchline.

If the first score had been an obvious triumph of traditional Springbok rugby, a clinical turning-up of the power, the second was just as typical of this team, their aggressive blitz creating the cloying pressure that sparked a counter-ruck and turnover to give Libbok that sliver of space on which he pounced.

De Klerk himself missed a penalty after WP Nel, the replacement tighthead, collapsed a scrum, while Graham thought he had hauled the Scots right back into it by scrambling over in the wake of a quickly taken lineout. Too quickly taken, as it transpired, with the officials adamant that the wrong ball had been used in the process. Scotland pushed hard from the reset lineout, but Siya Kolisi claimed a fine turnover.

The game opened up late on, Russell making two critical last-ditch interventions, while at the other end Ali Price seized on a Willie le Roux spill to stab through a grubber that just evaded Kinghorn. It was that kind of day for Scotland: nearly but not quite. Their path through and out of pool B remains distinctly uphill.

Rob Debney's verdict

Jesse Kriel's high tackle on Jack Dempsey should have been a red card. He lined him up, hit him high and there was head-to-head contact.



Scorers: South Africa: Tries Du Toit (47min), Arendse (50). **Pens** Libbok 2 (13, 25). **Con** De Klerk. **Scotland: Pen** Russell (41).
South Africa D Willemse; K-L Arendse, J Kriel, D de Allende, C Kolbe; M Libbok (W le Roux 69), F de Klerk (G Williams 75); S Kitshoff (O Nche 53, M Marx (B Mbonambi 56), F Malherbe (T Nyakane 53min), E Etzebeth (RG Snyman 26), F Mostert, S Kolisi (Capt) (M van Staden 65), P-S Du Toit, J Wiese (D Vermuelen 60).
Scotland B Kinghorn; D Graham (O Smith 65), H Jones, S Tuipulotu (C Redpath 67), D van der Merwe; F Russell, B White (A Price 67); P Schoeman (J Bhatti 56), G Turner (D Cherry 56), Z Fagerson (WP Nel 56), R Gray, G Gilchrist (S Cummings 56), J Ritchie (capt), R Darge (M Fagerson 65), J Dempsey.
Referee A Gardner (Aus). **Attendance** 63,566.

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was a lot of conditioned match-situation scenarios, which allowed us to hit our straps against Romania. It took a little bit of time [on Saturday]. Obviously it was disappointing to concede early but these things happen. But the second half was much better and it was great to see at the end that we were still chasing down the points.

"The heat we've experienced in pre-season [with mini camps in Portugal and France] helped us, whereas Romania's conditioning dropped in the last 20 minutes and it all came together for us. Sometimes those games can get a little bit ragged and tail off, so it was pleasing that we finished strong."


Sexton uses an ice pack to cool off on a hot day; he played for 66 minutes

The other proof of Ireland's peak conditioning was Sexton's energy and excellence for 66 minutes in his first game for six months. Now officially Ireland's oldest-ever player, the 38-year-old equalled David Humphreys's best individual match haul of 24 points and looked disappointed to be called off.

While it was anticipated that Farrell, the head coach, would nurse his captain through the tournament, making sure to keep his understudies, Ross Byrne and Jack Crowley, ticking over, it is clear that Sexton would play every minute of every match if he were allowed.

"It's great that Johnny got that many minutes," Easterby said. "He looked good, he looked fresh, he was energetic. Because of his age and experience he doesn't need a huge amount of rugby to get himself back into the swing of things and our style of training has helped that. He hasn't got many more times wearing the green jersey and he wants to play every minute he can. It depends how he and Faz [Farrell] map out the next few weeks but he's the talisman and the more minutes he can play, the better."

Easterby revealed that Ireland expect to select from a full deck for Saturday's meeting with Tonga in Nantes, where a significantly tougher challenge is expected. "Tonga can strike from pretty much anywhere," he said. "They've got guys who play in top-end rugby across the world — guys like [Charles] Piutau, [Pita] Ahki and [Malakai] Fekitoa in the centre. They've got some real firepower in the backs and also a forward pack that can mix it. It's going to be a very different proposition and one we really look forward to."

Springboks made maverick Russell look predictable

Stuart Barnes



Early on Eben Etzebeth nearly hit Finn Russell man and ball. In a fairly subdued start to the game, the crowd oohed and aahed watching the slow-motion replays on the stadium screen as the Springbok behemoth flattened the Scottish wizard.

Well, almost. The fly half cleared his lines in the nick of time. He plays on the edge; he does everything on the edge. He was charged down from five metres out in the opening minutes, for goodness sake. It made for a fascinating contrast after George Ford's cosseted masterclass the previous night here in Marseille.

The Englishman orchestrated the game quite magnificently with a fluid combination of boot and brain. Standing deep behind his pack, out of harm's way, he took his time and chose his kick. The three drop-goals were merely the headline act in a fine display of Ford dictating ten-man rugby.

A bit boring for the neutral but 14-man England deduced that the best way to win was to keep Argentina pegged back in their own half. Against this opponent it worked a treat. The Pumas got nowhere near England's maestro, who conducted what was an appealing adagio to English ears.

Scotland and South Africa were involved in a different type of game. Scotland keep the ball in hand much more than England. Russell searched his own 22 for space. With miss passes and little loops, the fly half sought half a metre of opportunity.

Ford bustled around the park whereas Russell strolled out at kick-off, conserving energy, keeping his cool, literally and metaphorically. He is a courageous so and so; he darts into traffic. As often as not it didn't come off in a cagey first half.

Russell didn't want to feed the counterattacking Springboks' back three, whereas Ford was free to kick courtesy of Argentine ineptitude, without even the thought of changing the English strategy.

Russell's offloads were loose. Three points were conceded for a deliberate knock-on, the boys in the bunker considered a yellow card for a cheap shot on Kurt-Lee Arendse. The first half was nothing to write home about in terms of Russell's overall performance but his well-struck penalty cut the half-time deficit to three points.

Pieter-Steph du Toit soon rumbled over in the second half after some heavyweight power plays. At 11-3, it wasn't quite time to roll the dice. Instead, Russell waited. Ball in hand, nothing on? He'd pop an unhurried pass on to a man outside him.

However, South African patience had run out. A crunching tackle on a Scottish runner, a turnover and it was the smooth cross-kicking South African fly half, Manie Libbok, who created a score, dropping a perfectly weighted kick into Arendse's hands. Libbok's goalkicking is erratic but he has an ability to find room out wide; equally adept off either foot, the try which stretched the lead to 18-3 felt like a killer blow.

The Springbok intensity gathered, they began winning scrum penalties. Scotland — like Argentina the previous day — could not escape their own territory. It was not until a superb 50-22 kick against the grain from Russell that Scotland set up camp in the opposing 22. From the ensuing lineout, perhaps Scotland's moment would come? Nothing doing again as the South Africans maintained a superb defensive line. Short pops or fizzing miss passes? Russell couldn't find the smallest chink in the Springbok rearguard.

A third scrum penalty for South Africa in their own 22 summed up Scotland's inability to provide any sort of platform for the Bath fly half. Du Toit nearly intercepted a Russell miss pass between Scotland's 22 and ten-metre line. They were finishing bravely but they were well-beaten.

Did Scotland get it wrong? Did they trust in their retention game too much? The margin of victory for one British team and the magnitude of the defeat for the other the next day suggests that yes, they did.

Yet watching Cheslin Kolbe and company galloping through Scottish defenders when the game broke up — well, good luck to the team that wants to kick possession away against South Africa. France are among those that will need to rebalance their structure. This Springbok team has the collective vision and individual firepower to retain the World Cup.

Scotland are a decent side. Their attack, with Russell at the helm, is sharp. The Springboks made the offence look blunt and the Scotland fly half predictable. Johnny Sexton and Ireland are going to have to find their way through a team that has conceded a measly ten collective points against New Zealand and Scotland in their past two matches.


The brilliance of Russell was stifled by South Africa

The Scots' brave attempt to keep the ball alive was undone by the organisation and power of the South African defence. Yet to kick possession away, into the hands of some of the best counterattackers on the planet, would have been crazy.

This column started as an intended analysis of fly halves' styles. It ends with a thought that this collective is not going to lose to anything as flaky as simple individual genius. If France are to wrest the title off South Africa they may need an entire nation to get behind them, as the South Africans so famously did in 1995.

Abject Argentina? English heart and soul crushed them

This pinch-me victory should not be devalued – it was an emotional epic that ranks among the best, says **Owen Slot**

And so we boarded the train from Paris to Marseille on Saturday morning, the World Cup moving en masse, a united nations of rugby shirts and languages sharing nods and swoons and eye-rolling acknowledgments: yes, you were there at the opening game last night, at the Stade de France too? Wasn't it just epic?

Rugby World Cups have a familiar rhythm. Quiet during the working week, a complete riot at the weekend — and this one started with a real bang. A whopping celebration of life, of rugby, of fizzy beer, of an international community of fans and of France and its passionate rugby team. It has felt a bit post-Covid too: we all know what we're doing here, don't we? Here we are falling back into the familiar embrace that a chaotic celebration of life like a Rugby World Cup has again afforded us.

But people heading with us to England-Argentina also wanted to know: why is England that strange party guest still standing in the corner, not wanting to join in the dance?

I sat and read Sam Warburton's column (excellent as ever) and he just made it worse. In addressing England's woes, he quoted and agreed with something that Martin Johnson had said about the Pumas and the Springboks — that no one else can hit emotional peaks quite like those two nations.

And maybe they are right — but one thing that has never quite added up is the idea that the English are the opposite extreme: restrained, impassive, benumbed. They can be inaccurate, tense, unimaginative and overcoached — yes, guilty as charged — but lacking in emotion, fight, heart, soul, personality, rugby's most essential ingredients? History doesn't allow that to stand, so why now, when everyone else has turned up apparently ready to dance?

In the Stade Vélodrome on Saturday night, who didn't arrive fearing the worst for England? Apart from those who hoped for the worst? Yet almost everyone there, or watching the television coverage, will have had a moment when they went: hang on, that's not quite what we expected.

Mine was the 23rd minute: Argentina, a man up, of course, were bashing away at the England line and a team a man down, especially one without heart and soul, would have been expected to put up a scrap but eventually give way. Yet England held out and then suddenly Courtney Lawes sinks heads and arms into the breakdown, the referee's arm is giving England the penalty and the stadium is loud, very, very loud with *Swing Low*.

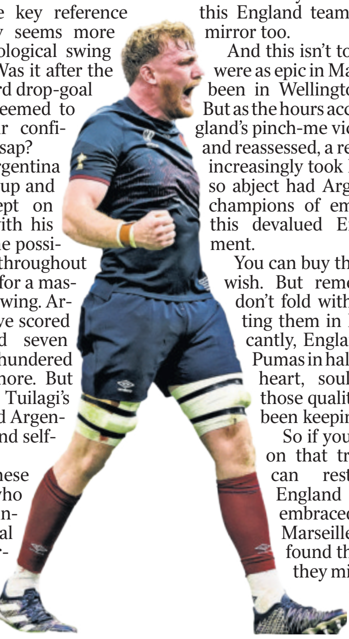
It was at this point that Ollie Chessum turned to the crowd and gestured so forcefully that all he lacked was the conductor's baton. C'mon! Come with us! And it was not long after that, after George Ford's third drop-goal, that Joe Marler came rushing off the bench, snarling, manically applauding.



Tuilagi joins his family in the stands after his fearsome display, Chessum, below, gees up the fans and Ben Earl absorbs the impact of Gonzalo Bertranou's challenge

Turning points and key moments are the kind of things that commentators and sportswriters like to impose on a story, to explain what we have just seen. Some will say it was the moment that Manu Tuilagi seemed to snap Santiago Chocobares in two with his tackle in the second half. When did we last see that from Tuilagi? Tuilagi is back?

Yet though the narrative of this match has these key reference points, the story seems more about the psychological swing that took place. Was it after the second or the third drop-goal that Argentina seemed to slump, that their confidence seemed to sap?



This was the Argentina who were a man up and though Ford kept on chipping away with his three-pointers, the possibility remained throughout the third quarter for a massive momentum swing. Argentina could have scored one try, bagged seven points and then thundered back with two more. But moments like Tuilagi's tackle just drained Argentine confidence and self-belief.

Remember, these are the Pumas who can hit those incredible emotional peaks. Well, certainly they can, but they can also be flooded by a tidal wave of self-doubt and it was this passionate, defiant England that was sweeping over them.

There are certain emotional epics in recent England rugby history that come to mind. One would be Johnson's 13 men who held out the All Blacks in Wellington in 2003. Another would be the bodies-on-the-line defensive masterclass by Paul Gustard's men in Melbourne in 2016.

It was before that Melbourne game that Gustard read the team a poem, *The Man in the Glass*, about being honest with who you are: "Just go to the mirror and look at yourself / And see what that man has to say." It felt in Marseille that this England team had been to the mirror too.

And this isn't to say that England were as epic in Marseille as they had been in Wellington or Melbourne. But as the hours accumulated and England's pinch-me victory was assessed and reassessed, a reading of the game increasingly took hold that said that so abject had Argentina (the world champions of emotion) been that this devalued England's achievement.

You can buy that as much as you wish. But remember, Argentina don't fold without England cutting them in half. More significantly, England do not cut the Pumas in half without emotion, heart, soul, personality, all those qualities that they have been keeping so well hidden.

So if you are heading back on that train to Paris, you can rest assured that England have now fully embraced the festival too. Marseille was where they found their heart. And no, they might not be the best dancers, but at least they are at the dance.



Faltering attack rescued by Ford's drop-goals

Will Kelleher
Analysis

Until Saturday evening, England appeared to have little brain, heart or courage. But in Marseille, they found them all at once. Remarkable.

Now the dust has settled on their victory over Argentina in the World Cup, it is clear there are areas ripe for improvement. Of course, it was a fantastic win, well-deserved, and has changed the narrative around England. George Ford, Courtney Lawes and Maro Itoje were superb and suddenly everything looks rosier in the English garden. Their attack, though, continued to falter.

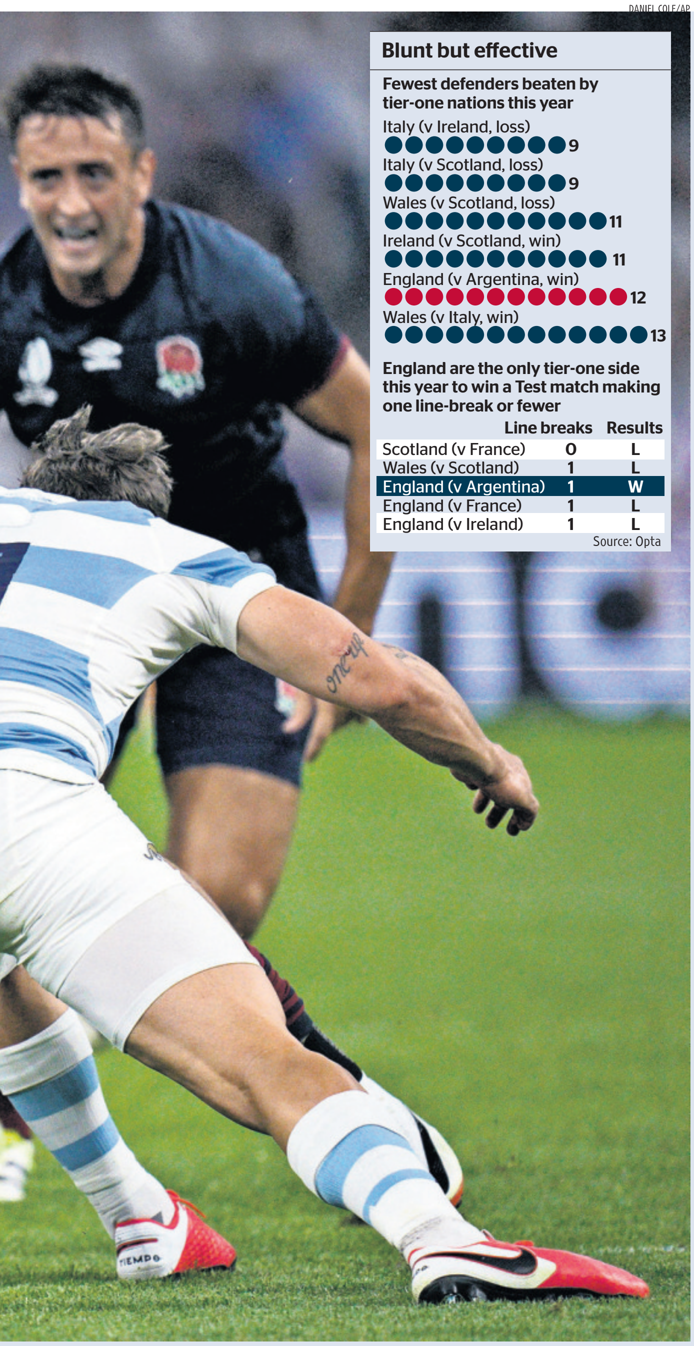
The difference from the rest of the Steve Borthwick era was that England found a way to score points despite their inability to score tries.

11
Tackles made by Lewis Ludlam, fourth among England players, despite only being on the field for 15 minutes

Incredibly they won — with 14 men for 78 minutes of the game — by 17 points. Imagine the score they could have racked up if they could catch and pass too?

We are told that attack is the most difficult thing to improve quickly, and that is true, but there were moments in Marseille where England simply failed to pass the ball along the line and exploit an overlap.

DANIEL COLE/AP



Blunt but effective

Fewest defenders beaten by tier-one nations this year

Italy (v Ireland, loss)	9
Italy (v Scotland, loss)	9
Wales (v Scotland, loss)	11
Ireland (v Scotland, win)	11
England (v Argentina, win)	12
Wales (v Italy, win)	13

England are the only tier-one side this year to win a Test match making one line-break or fewer

	Line breaks	Results
Scotland (v France)	0	L
Wales (v Scotland)	1	L
England (v Argentina)	1	W
England (v France)	1	L
England (v Ireland)	1	L

Source: Opta

Jonny May was a frustrated viewer for much of the first half. The first time England failed to use him was 18 minutes in. Ford found some decent shape in attack, but was let down by those outside him. May called for Ben Earl to kick ahead, but, if he had not cramped the space and simply passed to May, the wing had a golden opportunity.

Joe Marchant was the next man unable to release May, taking contact just inside the 15-metre line after 20 minutes. May threw up his arms in frustration.

England did have some good ideas, but are still not cohesive enough to execute them. Three minutes later, they drove a maul well in-field to create a big blind side. Elliot Daly and Ford remained on the blind side, but the scrum half Alex Mitchell took too long to extricate the ball from the forwards. Mitchell, Ford and Daly crabbed across the field when they got it and the move died.

These were little moments, but they summed up England's plodding attack. England still have the worst attack of the top ten nations in the world.

Struggling to convert

Points per entry to the opposition 22 among tier-one nations this year

Ireland	2.8
South Africa	2.7
France	2.7
Scotland	2.6
Fiji	2.6
Argentina	2.4
New Zealand	2.3
Australia	2.2
Wales	1.8
England	1.7

Source: Opta

What happened next was the remarkable bit. England, and Ford, realised they were not fluid enough to score tries, so started dropping goals.

The first came two minutes after that latest failed attack. Mitchell looked around for someone to pass to at the back of a ruck and there was basically no one. Ellis Genge took a ball standing still, and was driven back three metres, so Ford slipped deep into the pocket and thought, "Sod this, I'll drop a goal."

The second one was the best hit of his three. Again, England were going nowhere fast, so again, Ford settled into the pocket — this time way back on the halfway line — to hit the drop-goal. A side note here: the balls at this World Cup are flying so far. Everyone seems to be hitting them miles. Ford was asked about it and said: "I think the temperature makes a massive difference. The ball is different to the balls we're playing with in the Premiership; I'm not too sure what is different about it but they do seem to travel a lot faster and they're going a lot further."

Ford etched himself into the record books with his performance. He hit the first drop-goals for England by anyone for four years, for starters. There had only been seven in the past ten years, but he hit three in one night. He also now is joint-second on the all-time list of drop-goalers at the World Cup.

And Ford is responsible now for three of the four drop-goals this year. Look at how the figure has declined since 2011 — Jonny Wilkinson's last year of Test rugby.

Ford's third drop-goal was from right in front of the posts. Most teams would not think of trying that these days, but Ford genuinely had no other option with his forwards and backs all either on the floor or caught in a breakdown inside the Argentina 22.

Drop-kick revival?

George Ford struck three of the four drop-kicks in international rugby this year on Saturday

2011	23
2012	15
2013	6
2014	16
2015	15
2016	9
2017	7
2018	7
2019	9
2020	1
2021	1
2022	6
2023	4

Source: Opta

What was much improved, though, was England's defence. Although that is something of a perception thing. Having missed 27 tackles against Fiji, which was seen as an embarrassing disgrace, they missed 23, making only 79 per cent of their hits, against Argentina.

However, Argentina were toothless where Fiji had fangs. What was so much better was England's intent. Earl started it. In the second minute he flew out of the line to hit Santiago Carreras behind the gainline, running past the blockers to sack the fly half.

Lawes was immense too, winning two momentum-swinging turnovers. In his best one, in the 23rd minute, he made the initial tackle and then won the turnover.

Lewis Ludlam and Manu Tuilagi also summed up the defensive efforts. Ludlam made 11 tackles in 15 minutes when he came on — which put him fourth on England's tackle count list, behind Jamie George (15), Itoje (14) and Earl (13) who all started. And Tuilagi's hit on Santiago Chocobares would have been a lift for any team.

All this came when down to 14 men after Tom Curry's red card. It was England's eighth card in six Tests (although Freddie Steward's red v Ireland in the Six Nations was rescinded). They are the most ill-disciplined country in the world when it comes to cards.

So England have plenty to sort out, but at least they can do it on the back of a victory.

Blanket rulings on head collisions does game more harm



Rob Debney

Former International referee





Curry was given a red card for this tackle, top, but a similar incident by Chile's Sigren only resulted in a yellow

I fear that World Rugby is so desperate to avoid complaints over the occurrence of head collisions that it is diluting its efforts to create a safer sport.

The incident that led to Tom Curry's red card happened so fast and was accidental. Juan Cruz Mallía, the Argentina full back, was descending towards Curry, so the England flanker was not the initiator of the clashed heads.

There was contact with the head and, under the present interpretation of the laws, a red was the correct decision. However, the call undermines efforts to prevent reckless tackle behaviour.

It is possible for World Rugby to eradicate tackles such as the one by Owen Farrell against Wales that led to his ban. Farrell lined up the ball carrier and led with his shoulder, meaning it was a dangerous hit that could have been avoided.

Curry, by contrast, made a slight timing error and the contact with Mallía's head was incidental. Although Chile's Martín Sigren received only a yellow for a comparable incident yesterday, which in itself highlights inconsistency, any head-to-head collision risks a red.

This blanket approach makes it difficult for players to understand which types of tackles to focus on avoiding. By giving Curry the same card colour as Farrell, players may not evaluate how technique can be improved and instead believe that head contact alone determines whether a tackle is dangerous. The lack of nuance shifts the emphasis from education to resignation.

I did agree with the decision not to upgrade Santiago Carreras's yellow for taking out George Ford to a red, though — Carreras made contact with Ford's shoulder as well as his head, so there was mitigation.

This incident highlighted another flaw of the "bunker" system, because the TMO had not decided whether to upgrade Curry's punishment by the time that Carreras was shown yellow.

With a presence on the big screen, lots of replays to examine and the TV director giving instructions, the TMO has plenty to do when making one decision. If there is a second incident before their mind is made up on the first, they are put under extraordinary pressure.

Nevertheless, England's latest red card will fuel the idea that Steve Borthwick's men are perceived by referees as an ill-disciplined side. I do not think they are dirty but there are steps they can take to influence decisions a little.

When the referee comes into the England changing room before the match, the leaders need to build a narrative that they are a law-abiding group. Creating a good relationship with the referee would serve them well both for the upcoming game and for each match they play with that official in charge.

Once a match starts, the captain plays a pivotal role. Some of the game's great skippers — think Richie McCaw, Sam Warburton and Martin Johnson — were masters of subtly swaying the referee with their tone and demeanour.

Should the stoic Courtney Lawes captain England once the demonstrative Farrell is available? It is not that simple. When I refereed, there were teams whom I always officiated well, while I simply did not click with others. I suspect Lawes and Farrell are in a similar position: they will have referees who they have got along with over the years, but neither is likely to have a positive relationship with every one.

'We're sorry for crowd delays'

Will Kelleher Marseille

World Rugby has apologised to the England and Argentina fans who were caught in the chaos outside the Stade Vélodrome, where delays getting in caused thousands to miss the kick-off.

It took some more than an hour to get through the crush, which was created by a security operation in which tickets had to be scanned at two locations, food and drink was confiscated and everyone was subjected to a full body search.

World Rugby will now take action to ensure there is no repeat. Stadium rules state fans can only bring in uncapped plastic bottles below 500ml, baby bottles, homemade sandwiches and food or drink required for medical reasons. The stadium also hosted Scotland's opener against South Africa yesterday, when there were no such issues.

Most of the 63,000 fans arrived at one entrance point, having come from Boulevard Michelet. Many were not made aware there was another largely empty entrance on the opposite side of the stadium.

Many also complained they were unable to buy alcoholic drinks, having been told the pumps had run dry, but World Rugby denies the stadium ran out of beer, citing "pourage issues".

In a statement, World Rugby said: "We would like to apologise to fans impacted by yesterday's access challenges. We are working hard to enhance the experience for all visiting Marseille for the World Cup." It added that for future matches, more volunteers will be hired to direct ticket-holders to the appropriate entry points, increase public transport announcements and send more information to fans before games.

Clinical Lawes and 90s style

Alex Lowe
Rugby Correspondent, Marseille



On Thursday morning at the Stade Gérard Houllier in Le Touquet, before England boarded their flight to Marseille for the opening game of the World Cup, Steve Borthwick set his team the latest in a series of challenges. It was the final play of the session and most of the senior players were removed from the field. The task set for those remaining? Find a way to win.

Since the day he took the job of England head coach, Borthwick has impressed upon his players the need for them to be the fastest-learning team in the world. It was the only way, he said, that England could catch up with the leading pack. He has driven that point home by making intellectual and strategic demands in meetings and by setting situational challenges in training.

Frankly, over the previous nine Tests of Borthwick's regime, there had not been much evidence of England's players engaging their brains. Whether it was George Ford, Owen Farrell or Marcus Smith at fly half, they had been playing by rote.

Borthwick said to those remaining players on Thursday: "Make it work". The team in possession needed three points to win. They worked the field position, Ford slotted into the pocket and nailed the drop-goal.

Two days later, at the Stade Vélodrome, that same routine would be reprised three times over by Ford as England worked out for themselves how to defeat Argentina with 14 men after Tom Curry had been sent off. The adversity helped them but England first had to identify how to narrow the plan and then execute it.

"We get posed those challenges in training. We have team tactical meetings," Ben Earl, the back row, said. "For it to come out on the pitch in the first game was proof of the hard work and some of the intellectual conversations we've been having off the pitch."

2MIN 8SEC: "THAT'S LIFE"

Curry had missed all of England's previous Tests this year through injury. He made an immediate impact by halting Marcos Kremer on the gainline but his second involvement, after two minutes and eight seconds, would be his last.

Curry received the earliest red card in World Cup history for a clash of heads with Juan Cruz Mallía as the Pumas full back landed from claiming a high ball. The decision taken by World Rugby's "bunker" officials had to be based on outcome only, with no consideration of intent. Once they felt there was no mitigation (which England may well challenge at tomorrow's disciplinary hearing, given the dynamics of the situation) it had to be red. Elliot Daly, involved in the same incident, had gone in lower.

"We've had a lot of challenges," Manu Tuilagi, the centre, said. "That's life. You've just got to find a way to deal with it. We talked about the trust that you've got to have in each other."

22MIN 42SEC: "MOMENTS LIKE THAT WIN YOU MATCHES"

England's defence had been soft through the summer internationals but sources inside the camp say there has been a marked shift in the intensity and focus of the senior players since arriving in France. "These are big-match beasts," one said. "The team is full of veterans from 2019 and players who have won club titles. They react to the biggest challenges."

Improving discipline but a red card problem

England conceded only seven penalties against Argentina, their third-lowest figure since the 2019 World Cup

Georgia (Nov 2020)	5
France (Feb 2020)	6
Japan (Nov 2022)	6
Wales (Feb 2023)	6
Wales (Aug 2023)	6
Italy (Feb 2023)	7
Argentina (Sep 2023)	7

Most red cards among tier-one nations this year

England	4
Scotland	2
Japan	2
France	1
New Zealand	1

Source: Opta

Courtney Lawes, who led a phenomenal defensive effort to win the Test series as captain in Australia last summer, produced three huge interventions in ten minutes, all inside England's 22. Having been penalised for hands on the floor, Lawes was clinical thereafter as he won two turnover penalties either side of forcing a knock-on to lead a spirited goalline stand.

14 Handling errors made by Argentina on Saturday — tied with England (v Wales in August) for the most in a Test this year

"Courtney was phenomenal," Dan Cole, the prop, said. "When you are backed up on your goalline, Argentina are playing and he wins a turnover in front of the sticks — it is moments like that that win you games. When your captain is doing that it is massive for the rest of the team."

26MIN 38SEC: "RUGBY FROM THE 1990S"

Maro Itoje meant this comment as the greatest compliment. In a throwback to Rob Andrew in 1995, Jannie de Beer in 1999 and then Jonny Wilkinson in 2003, England took control of the game during a stunning ten-minute spell, with three drop-goals from Ford.

The Sale Sharks fly half had landed two in his 85 previous Tests but England know they will not carve teams open at this World Cup — that much was evident on Saturday — but they need to keep scoring. The drop-goal strategy worked a treat.

"We were problem-solving on the field," Earl, the flanker, said. "It sometimes makes things easier with 14 men. It narrows your focus in terms of knowing what we're going to do. You can get into a bit of a rhythm. I don't think I saw a single drop-goal, my face was in the turf every time, but it was so nice."

The first looked to be a planned move from a lineout. Alex Mitchell, the scrum half, ran laterally and dumped the ball to Ellis Genge, who was static and took the tackle as Ford dropped into the pocket.

Then came the moment that confirmed England had worked out collectively how to manage the game; they were operating as a unit not as individuals, which had been a problem through August. When Daly's long-range penalty fell just short, Joe Marchant and Earl chased with such intensity that the clearance kick had to be skewed into touch. The roar from the England contingent was huge. The players are understood to have been genuinely worried they had lost their public. But England fans, frustrated at four years of decline, just needed something to grab on to. That chase was it. That connection with the support in the stadium left some players emotional after the game.

From the lineout, England worked the ball into centre field and Ford kicked his second drop-goal from halfway. "The temperature makes a massive difference. The ball is different to the balls we're playing with in the Premiership," Ford said. "They do seem to travel a lot faster and they're going a lot further.

"Drop-goals are part of our plan. It's such a crucial and critical weapon at times. You have seen how influential they have been at World Cups."

When the full back Freddie Steward was upended by Pablo Matera, Ford went for broke with a kick into the corner. England got to within seven metres of the Pumas' line, the closest all game, and Ford clipped over his hat-trick kick. "The crucial one was the third one," he said. "To get more than seven points ahead [at 12-3] was critical. In a game where the ball was dead greasy, it was going to be hard for them to score tries."

63MIN 11SEC: "WE'VE GOT THEM"

Ford put the drop-goal tactic away, but kept the scoreboard ticking for England with second-half penalties. This was the perfect game for Steward to showcase his world-class qualities and he ruled the skies, chasing box-kicks and allowing England to apply territorial pressure. On the back of that, Lawes, Tuilagi, Earl and Itoje, who enjoyed his best England game in years, went hunting in defence, catching the Pumas behind the gainline and forcing errors.

"We were that dominant in the air and smart enough to work out where we had the advantage," Earl said. "We were just doubling down on that. You just work out a rhythm as a pack of how things work."

Argentina did not play a smart game of rugby but the fitness work England had been doing, which by some recent estimates left them competing at 60 per cent during August, bore fruit.

That was all underpinned by England's scrum, which had the Pumas under real pressure. Tuilagi played flanker on England ball, allowing Earl to launch himself with great effect off the base from No 8. At one point Jamie George, the hooker, said to his teammates: "We've got them". At no time was that more apparent than just after the hour mark, when England's seven men split the Pumas to win another penalty.

Cole gave Tuilagi the seal of approval. "He was pushing hard. He grabbed on to my leg at one point which I wasn't too impressed with, but he was good," the prop said. "England have always targeted the set piece. Some people don't like it but it wins you games. It wins you field position and penalties. And it is what I do. Push."

YESTERDAY, 9AM: "WE CAN WIN THE WORLD CUP"

Genge was in a bullish mood immediately after the game. The reality is that England are still miles off. They still don't have an attacking game worthy of the name. But England finally showed who they are and what they stand for. That is a start. Now on to Japan in Nice on Sunday. But internally this pivotal game has shifted England's broader focus from quarter-final qualification to reaching Paris and a semi-final.

"That performance has to be the base level," Itoje said. "That can't be us peaking. We have to push on from here."



Farrell is a confusing liability – this side are better off without him

Stuart Barnes
Marseille



Clarity. That's the word that has gone missing from the England game. They are not going to beat the better teams on the planet playing Barbarians running rugby, but a strategy based upon the pre-World Cup confused kicking plan is even less likely to take them to the places where the air is thin.

Saturday night was better, if far from perfect. A brutally butchered second-half overlap was a reminder of the state of England's back play. How the back line has so lost its way is a question for the future. But now the World Cup has started, it's a question of maximising what works.

The forwards worked better than we have seen them function under Steve Borthwick. The lineout and scrums were strengths against an Argentina side which no longer places the set piece as their top priority. Driven backwards by an undeniably determined England defence, they lost all poise. Clarity? There was none to be found in the Argentina camp while England didn't so much overcome Tom Curry's red card as find a way to win.

– keys to England's revival

PAUL HARDING/HENRY BROWNE/GETTY IMAGES; PAVEL GOLOVKIN/AP



Ford was able to kick his drop-goals thanks to the pressure that England exerted at the scrum and in defence, right





CONTINUED FROM BACK
Now let's win it all, says Genge

Sunday after serving a two-week suspension, but Farrell must wait until the third pool game against Chile on September 23 for his introduction to the World Cup, having been given a four-week ban for a dangerous tackle on Taine Basham, the Wales flanker.

Curry risks a six-week ban, but as he has a clean record he is more likely to end up with a two-week suspension if he attends a World Rugby coaching intervention programme — or "tackle school" as it has become known. That would mean he misses the games against Japan in Nice and Chile in Lille but could be free to face Samoa in England's final pool match on October 7, also in Lille.

England may look to contest the card, however, and Curry's team-mates thought he was unlucky to be sent off. "As he's landing, kick-chasing, it's a split-second thing," Genge said. "He didn't mean to do it. I don't think he meant to hit him but it's one of them and you have to adapt."

Ben Earl, the back-row forward, added: "I didn't feel there was any malice in that challenge. I thought he was quite unlucky."

Earl was delighted with England's response after the red card. It was the fourth time an England player had been sent off this year, although Freddie Steward's red card against Ireland in the Six Nations was later rescinded. "We're starting to show we're not just going to roll over in those situations," Earl said. "We're starting to really find a way to win, which is really pleasing. We've spoken a lot about the difference between playing in a World Cup and playing in warm-up games, the Autumn Nations Series or even the Six Nations.

"You don't win anything in the summer. You start winning stuff now."

Maro Itoje, the lock, said: "When you go down to 14 men — and we've been down to 14 men a bit too often in recent times — you only have one choice: you have to fight and to work.

"We know that if we are going to be the team we want to be, that has to be the base level. That can't be us peaking; that has to be the base level and we have to push on from there."

Courtney Lawes set a physical example. In terms of follow-me captaincy it is hard not to give your all when the captain has such a quiet heroism at the core of his fibre. And then there was George Ford. The fly half sat back, took the measure of his circumstances and produced a kicking game of consummate quality.

Before the Fiji warm-up game, Ford said it was up to the players to provide the shape for the side. In Marseille, amid all the hod carrying, here was the architect — one unafraid to pull his weight when needed — but primarily the man who won them the game.

The three drop-goals in succession which took 14-man England from 3-3 to 12-3 was where the game was won for England and lost for Argentina. England rose to the challenge, the Pumas slumped. In Borthwick's title-winning season with Leicester, Ford played with an accuracy and, yes, a clarity, for the Tigers throughout. Ellis Genge was the emotional heartbeat; Ford the clear-sighted mastermind. And here Ford was, in the nick of time, standing poised behind his pack to drop his three goals. Ford is a fabulous passer of the ball but that asset has been sidelined in the past few years. He plays in teams where strengths lie elsewhere. England, like Leicester, were in a mess and Ford kicked them out of it.



Farrell, left, had to watch from the stands, where he could remain if Borthwick, centre, decides to keep Tuilagi, right, at No 12 and Ford at fly half after their stellar displays

It wasn't just the drop-goals. The overall quality of his tactical repertoire was excellent. He has to start in however many big games England have left. The rebirth of Ford as an international tactician in a team playing limited rugby leaves the largest of question marks surrounding the squad captain, Owen Farrell.

Quite simply, the skipper is no match for Ford as a game-controlling No 10. Farrell is a great goalkicker but under immense pressure Ford kicked the goals and added an element that has never been a feature in the Farrell repertoire: the drop-goal.

The drop-goal isn't just a clean strike of the boot as the ball bounces. It is a manipulation of the field. It is a thing of terrible beauty; rugby league has it right. It should be the match-winner of last resort. Hence its lowly one-point value in the league code.

Annoying as it is to England fans who grew up on a diet of Jonny Wilkinson drop-goals, it should not be worth 60 per cent of a try. It's a signal for conservative rugby. But that's a debate for another day. The fact is that Ford's precise strikes earned England nine points and took the game away from Argentina. Farrell is neither a great drop-kicker, nor a cold-blooded tactician who can play his team into the right parts of the field for those drops.

In a team of limitations, Ford's capacity to control and keep the points coming makes him first-choice fly half.

Farrell could slot in as No 12 but Manu Tuilagi made the sort of devastating tackles that sent Argentina backwards, no longer in control of the situation. Farrell doesn't do that. Nor does he play with poise. In 2019 he worked well as inside centre to Ford's fly half but his international form has regressed since the semi-final high point against New Zealand. Can his temperament or technique be trusted any more?

The selection argument in Farrell's favour is his variety of kicks. He is a clever kicker of the ball. To play him and Ford in tandem might enable England to vary their tactical kicking, in theory. It would be no surprise if the Ford-Farrell 2019 axis wasn't the Borthwick masterplan all along. It would explain the absence of another elegant footballer, Henry Slade, from the 33-man World Cup squad. The kicking game requires power to maintain front-foot ball. Defenders on their heels allow extra seconds to ensure the kick, be it a drop-goal or a spiral bomb, is struck perfectly. Ford-Farrell-Slade didn't add up.

Now, Farrell is *the* selection issue of the World Cup. He remains unavailable for England's next game against Japan on Sunday. Thereafter the head coach must make up his mind. Whether to revive the two mates in the midfield or omit Farrell from the starting line-up.

Minus the captain against Argentina, England produced their most controlled and tactically sound performance of the Borthwick era. In Lawes they have a spiritual and physical leader. In Ford, their general. The case against the recall is stronger than the case for.

The implications for Farrell's official role as captain are immense. To captain the team from 12 or the bench undoes all the leadership we saw on Saturday. Amid the English feelgood factor, Farrell feels like a confusing liability. To keep him as captain does not strengthen the clarity and leadership seen in Marseille. Borthwick is in need of some deep thinking.

Sport



Wales survive but sorrow for Scots

Gatland's side hold off Fiji but Springboks too strong for Scotland, plus all the England latest

Eight pages of World Cup insight and analysis, pages 60-67



We can win World Cup, says Genge

Curry to discover fate tomorrow after red card

Will Kelleher
Deputy Rugby Correspondent, Marseille

England believe they can win the World Cup after their backs-to-the-wall victory over Argentina.

Steve Borthwick's team were reduced to 14 men inside three minutes — receiving their eighth red or yellow card in ten Tests this year — when Tom Curry was sent off in Marseille but they put in a resilient display to win their first pool D match 27-10 on Saturday.

George Ford kicked all the points, including three drop-goals, and was hailed as a "mastermind" by Manu Tuilagi and a "genius" by Ellis Genge for his man-of-the-match performance at fly half. Now the team, much derided after losing six of their first nine games under Borthwick — who was appointed head coach in December — have set their sights on the top prize in France, knowing that they can build momentum through the tournament.

Genge, the prop and England's vice-captain, said his side knew their form would turn, despite performing poorly when losing three of their four warm-up Tests.

"We want to win the World Cup and we're doing the same thing every week," Genge, 28, said. "Consistency, consistency. This is what we're aiming for; every single week we said we were building and nobody believed it. But I believe we can win this World Cup. Of course I do, otherwise I wouldn't be here. We're going to go again every week. There was not one second in the past few weeks that I've thought, 'We're in trouble here.' I honestly haven't. I know that's hard to believe but I haven't felt like that at all. I know it's hard from the outside. I support Bristol Rovers so I know how it feels when you're not getting results. When that happens it's always, 'This is the worst ever, everything has to change.' But you've got to burn the ships. Then all you can do is double down.

"I'm not saying we've cracked it by any sense but it's a step in the right direction. I'm not naive. We've been chipping away, doing our graft, and we're confident. We've been doing the work so we can be confident."

Curry, 25, faces a disciplinary hearing tomorrow night after being charged with dangerous tackling. He hit the Argentina full back Juan Cruz Mallía in a head-on-head challenge when his opponent landed after gathering a high ball, leaving both players cut.

The French referee, Mathieu Raynal, showed Curry a yellow card initially which was then upgraded to red using the "bunker" review system. Taken from the minute of the offence — the third — it was the fastest sending-off in World Cup history, and the first for an Englishman.

Curry is the third England player to be shown a red card in the past month, after Owen Farrell and Billy Vunipola were sent off in the World Cup warm-ups against Wales and Ireland respectively. Vunipola is free to play in England's next match against Japan on

Continued on page 67

RYAN PIERSE/GETTY IMAGES



Livingstone lets rip for England

All-rounder hits 95 not out from 78 balls as England level ODI series with New Zealand at 1-1 to end three-match white-ball losing streak. Report, page 58

United delay Antony return

Martin Hardy

Manchester United have placed Antony on a leave of absence to "address allegations of assault" that have been made against the Brazil winger.

Antony is facing accusations from three women in Brazil. A police investigation has been opened after allegations of domestic abuse by the player's former girlfriend, Gabriela Cavallin. A further allegation of assault was made by Ingrid Lana in an interview with a Brazilian TV channel and a third claim was made by Rayssa de Freitas in which the law student said she had needed hospital treatment.

The 23-year-old, who was signed from Ajax for £82 million in 2022, was due back at United for training today after being dropped from Brazil's squad for their World Cup qualifiers

Continued on page 54

Walker tried to retire twice

Henry Winter Chief Football Writer

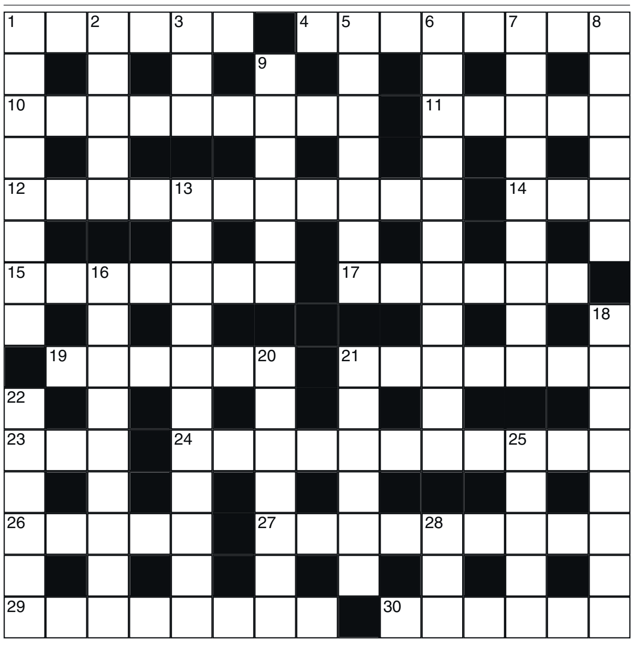
Kyle Walker twice tried to retire from international football only to be talked out of it by Gareth Southgate.

The Manchester City defender, 33, wanted to call time after Euro 2020 and the 2022 World Cup but the England manager convinced him to change his mind. Walker scored his first England goal as he earned his 77th cap against Ukraine on Saturday and Southgate is delighted to still have him available.

"I've talked him out of retirement twice. Out of international football," Southgate said. "I think he loves being here and he's wanted to keep going and now he's thinking about how many caps can he get. He's critical to us. If we're talking about world-class players in their position in our team then he's probably one of them."

Full story, page 56

Times Crossword 28,705



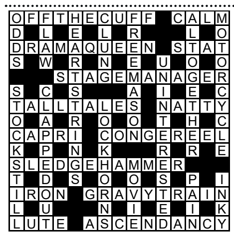
ACROSS

1 Vehicle that's found in a nuclear power plant? (3,3)
4 Film family with head of Kuwait wearing medal (4,4)
10 With tablet, prepare unique identifier (2,7)
11 Lincoln, say, gets a motorway directly from port? (5)
12 Legendary vehicle — British sports car — without a fresh practice (5,6)
14 Academic wear (3)
15 Riot's anger engulfing a politician (7)
17 Refusal to negotiate about Northern Ireland (6)
19 Oil producers claim poles without being asked (2,4)
21 Pig has good time in town (7)
23 Had a meal with friend, skipping starter (3)
24 Crying and complaining, put up with large animal (7,4)
26 Planet once placed outside large observatory's entrance (5)
27 Famous dog originally dwelling around part of Switzerland? (2,7)
29 Some musings on garage music session (8)
30 Hand out gold shower component? (6)

DOWN

1 Healthy-sounding old lady with really empty prayer (4,4)
2 Pest upset hosts with noise from guitar (5)
3 Unlimited alcoholic beverage — rum (3)
5 Trendy drink I had is tasteless (7)
6 Leader of Genesis finally performing cover for musical festival (11)
7 New advert for bank loan of sorts (9)
8 Almost get car delivery in June, perhaps (6)
9 Scoundrel seen in river for some time (6)
13 Pelicans go flying, circling unknown birds that can't fly? (4,7)
16 Thomas, say, tailed horse-like figure (9)
18 I'd return to shift trespasser (8)
20 Embarrassed, guilty party covers lips (7)
21 Gareth with award picked up for summerhouse (6)
22 Grounds for university to break up scam (6)
25 European movie villain's short skirt (5)
28 Fish potentially with line you might catch? (3)

Prize solution 28,698



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

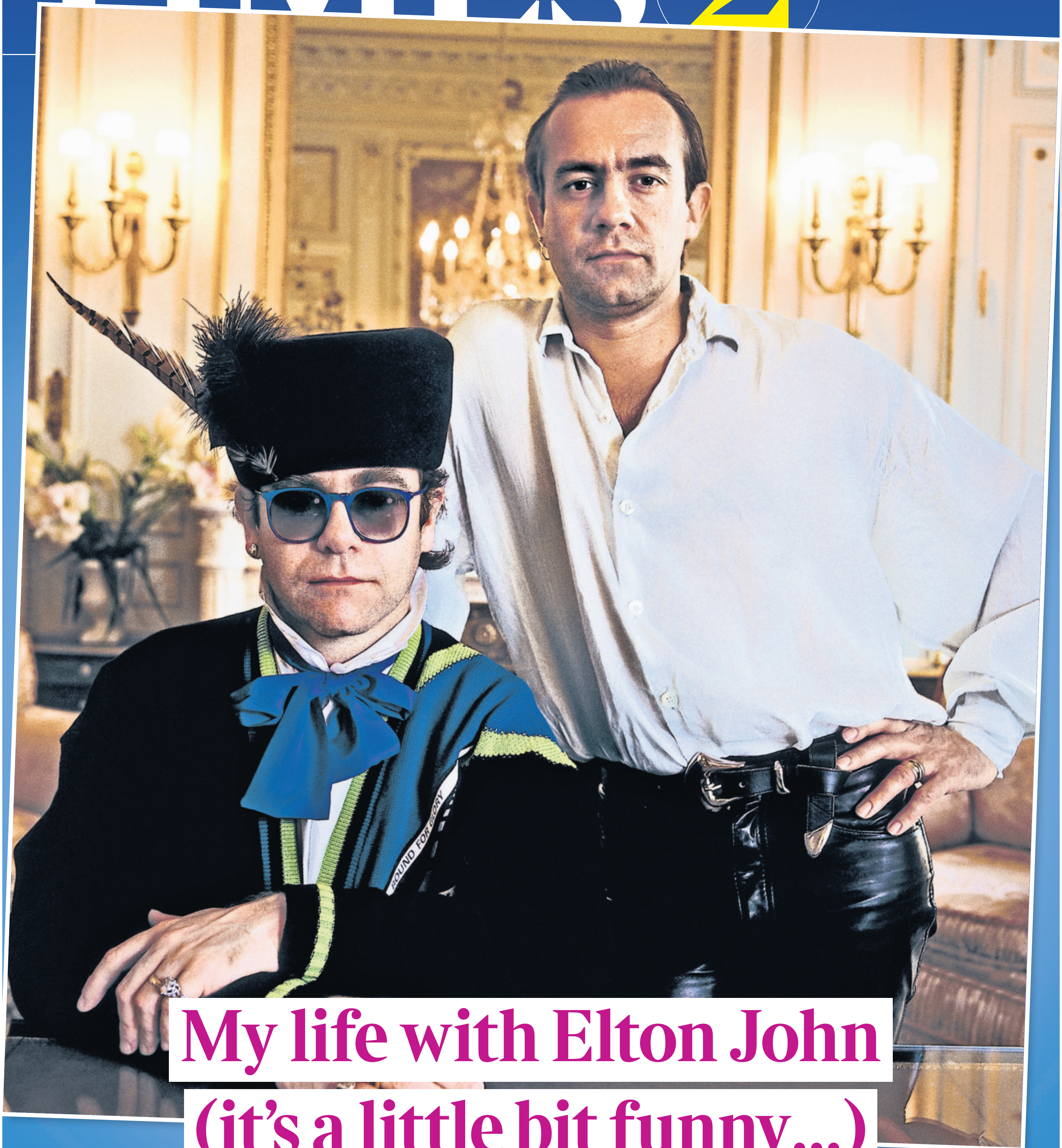
The winners of Prize Crossword No 28,698 are
S Bower, Hunstanton, Norfolk
R Pike, Harpenden, Hertfordshire
N Rapley, Fleet, Hampshire
C Spate, Bridlington, East Yorkshire
C Wood, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire

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TIMES 2

September 11 | 2023



My life with Elton John (it's a little bit funny...)

Bernie Taupin puts it all down in words

Wills and Kate want to thrash each other, that's why they're so relatable

Kevin Maher



Exit the spare, enter the heir! At least that's the inevitable messaging goal behind Prince William's two-day visit to America next week. The "green campaigning" trip (coinciding with New York's Climate Week) will clearly target what a royal aide once described as the "US problem". Which problem is that? You know, he who must not be named. No, not Voldemort. The guy who spent nearly 18 months of intense media engagement, with and without his wife, on a bizarre mission to liberate himself from intense media engagement.

It's Harry, of course, and Meghan sometimes. William's previous trip to the US, also for green campaigning (to Boston in late 2022), was scuppered by the suspiciously well-timed release of the trailer for Netflix's explosive documentary *Harry & Meghan*.

For this one Team Wills are taking no chances. They're already riding high from a Gallup poll, also well timed, that claims Prince William is "more trusted" by the American people than political luminaries such as Joe Biden, Donald Trump or Kamala Harris — hmm, honestly, I am pretty sure that, say, Dominic Cummings, Kim Jong-un or Darth Vader would be more trustworthy than those slippery nitwits. And now the royal messaging machine has gone on the offensive, with a cuddly media onslaught that has revealed just how normal, empathetic and relatable is the life that is lived chez Wills and Kate. She, for instance, loves cold water swimming. "Personally I love swimming wherever I can," Kate said, while speaking on a chatty podcast (*The Good, the Bad & the Rugby*) hosted by the former English rugby player Mike Tindall. "Cold swimming. The colder the better. I absolutely love it."



Good for her! Although I worry that she's slightly late to the cold swimming party and that rational folk are tiring of pronouncements on the therapeutic power of icy dips. Yes, it's good for the mind and it's going to save you, at some vague point in the future, from heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer's and the curse of human mortality. Next!

More impressive, however, was her admission, on the same podcast, that she is possessed of a furious "competitive streak" and that she can't remember finishing a tennis match with William, such is the destructive nature of her desire to win. I'm with her on that. Tennis between intimate partners can be lethal — in my case almost literally so.

When I met my wife at university, for instance, we bonded over tennis. She was, it transpired, quite good "for a woman" — meaning that she could play to the same standard as me, a man who could beat most men my age. In one of our early and viciously competitive games, on the university's hard courts, I drew her into the net and whipped the ball overhead with a cheeky backhand topspin lob (one of the most difficult shots in the game — just saying). As she ran back to play it, determined as ever, she tripped, fell and cracked her head on the hard surface. My response? A fist pump followed by a quietly triumphant "Yesssssss!" Which was unfortunate. Because the player on the court beside us, a third year medical student, ran over, glanced at her skull and within 20 minutes we were in a nearby hospital emergency room and she was being treated for suspected concussion.

Point being? It was appalling behaviour on my part, and over the years I've had to deal with the shame of it while simultaneously trying to control my competitive streak. And yet, technically, basically, I still won that game. So not all bad. Kate knows what I'm talking about. So does William. That's why they're so relatable. Unlike, well, you know who!

Is there anywhere to bank?

I don't want to invoke David Cameron's famous phrase "Broken Britain", but it's disconcerting to know, via the latest figures, that there are 23 parliamentary constituencies where all bank branches have now closed.

I have personal experience here and seem to have spent the last year chasing NatWest branches around the country as they close like falling dominoes before me.

My local "home" branch in the Cotswolds closed in March, which was fine, because I switched to the "work" branch in London, before that closed in June. And now if I want the NatWest during work breaks I have to take a Tube journey for minor-level transactions.

The strangest irony, however, is that I only used the branches for depositing the many, many cheques I receive from the train operator GWR for refunds due to services that have been suddenly (infuriatingly) cancelled, abandoned or delayed for up to two hours. So, to recap, I am chasing rapidly closing bank branches in order to claim refunds from a slowly collapsing transport system. Did I mention Broken Britain?

I'm sick of John Lewis adverts

Oh no! What depraved, cold-hearted, pro-European cynicism is this? The department store John Lewis has apparently axed the British advertising agency responsible for its iconic Christmas adverts.

And in its place? An "edgy" French company that made a controversial pop video for Rihanna's *Bitch Better Have My Money* filled with nudity and violence.

This is, allegedly, a bad thing. Because what would Christmas be without a saccharine, barf-inducing two-minute commercial that crashes classic tunes (*Golden Slumbers*, *Can't Fight This Feeling*) up against clichéd shots of vulnerable, big-eyed beasties (dragons, dogs and fluffy monsters) in an attempt to flog needless merchandise to a populace that mostly cannot afford it. Personally I'm looking forward to the nudity and violence version. It can't get any worse.

What your coffee (and everything else) says about you



Does ordering a double espresso mean you're well read? A new survey says it does. It's not the only social signifier — here are a few others. By Shane Watson

So the award for We Could Have Made It Up But Why Would We Have Bothered survey of the month goes to the one that has established that your coffee choice reveals a lot about your personality.

For example (bear with us), double espresso drinkers are well read and travelled, white Americano fanciers are straight talkers, and those who like a mocha or a bit of chocca in their coffee think they are sexier than the average. Also — and don't all stampede to order a pint of it publicly — iced coffee drinkers are the best lovers and the life and soul of the party. (I suspect this is a seasonal sexy-person signal, though, don't you? Seriously, don't try this when it's tipping down in November.)

It is hard to take this Dunkin' (formerly Dunkin' Donuts) study seriously — favourite finding: those who drink flavoured coffee self-identify as "funny" — but we're not saying the "what your choices say about you" game isn't well worth playing and there's no doubt that some choices are extremely revealing. If you weren't aware, then pay close attention — here is a random selection of giveaway everyday choices.

Long painted nails

A glossy pedicure is par for the course and says absolutely nothing about the person whose toenails are painted, but long nails, painted any colour, are what separate the two basic tribes of women. Tribe A are the Naturals — which doesn't necessarily mean they naturally look natural, but just that their preferred look is Gwyneth Paltrow rather than Cher. Tribe B are the Duchesses. They have long nails. They don't like to be seen without their make-up. They take their underwear seriously. They wear heels whenever possible. While Naturals and Duchesses can get on well, they never hang out together. Check your nails: short? I guarantee your five best friends are in the same nail camp.

Your footwear

You can overthink this stuff and a lot of people are wearing New Balance trainers just because they liked the look of the N, or one of the kids left them behind and they happen to be the same size. You cannot spot a trainer on a person and say for certain that you have that person's number. You can, however, tell an awful lot about a man sockless in loafers and wearing a suit (smooth bordering on untrustworthy) and a man wearing socks with docksiders and jeans (variation on red trouser man, proud owner of dogs, Tory voter, full-fat milk drinker). Blundstone wearers you could write a book about: comfortable in the country or the city; happy swimming in the sea until November; flexitarian; would describe themselves as liberal, outdoorsy and health-conscious even if they don't mind the odd drug; environmentalists; cool parents. And there's so much more. They love a fire pit.

Your dog breed

It might be your sister's or maybe you never gave the breed of your dog any thought, but still you must know that the dog at your side says many things about you. If it's an XL Bully, a rottweiler, a Rhodesian ridgeback etc, then you can expect people to look at you in a certain light. At the very least they will be thinking, "I wonder if she can hold onto that if it decides to take off?" We'd like to say that when people clock a dog and its owner they think, "Just another person and their dog," but that is never the case. We think: "Of *course* you've got a teacup dog, which is why

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Teacup dog — or staffy?

you're taking it for a walk wearing a chinchilla bikini." We think: "I see a staffy with a skull-and-cross-bones harness. I'm going to assume that eye contact is ill advised and the owner is definitely not heading to the café in the park for a cortado and avocado on toast."

Olive oil
We used to buy a litre of the blended who-knows-what's-in-there supermarket own brand and sort of hope for the best. Now olive oil has gone the way of wine and you might want to let people see your ceramic refillable bottle of Xylo organic or tin of Portuguese Monterosa. You know the way you used to sort of display *The River Café Cookbook*? Now you can skip all that and go straight to the organic extra virgin handpicked cold-pressed olive oil that cost the same as your air fryer.

Your car
No one gives a stuff what car you drive any more, unless you are bunny-hopping down the high street in a yellow Ferrari or taking up two parking spaces in a blacked-out Range Rover, in which case what those choices say about you is: You Are People We Would Find It Hard to Care For.

You get respect for a Saga Norén-style battered Porsche. You thought you would get respect for an electric car, but that hasn't gone so well and now you look a bit of a mug. An old mini or Citroën deux chevaux makes people smile. We're curious about a Jensen, but have already filed the driver under Potential Trouble. We see a fortysomething woman in a sports car, we think single, and good for her. There are clues you can get from cars, but not that many.



Stealthcations with the A-list in a Cornish village?

Undercut ponytail/man bun
We all know full well the possibility of doing a Fleabag's sister and ending up with a haircut that says pretentious gallery owner when what you were looking for was a solid Fiona Bruce, but the fact is that no one has ever got an undercut plus ponytail or a man bun by accident. These styles are loaded with messages about the person who has chosen them that roughly add up to: you better believe I'm different. I wish I was Colin Farrell. I thought I needed a signature.

People who hold their phones *that* way
Like French bistro waiters hold trays, only with their fingertips, somewhere to the left of their mouths. This tells us unequivocally that the person doing the fingertip tray is not someone you want to be behind in the queue when they are giving their coffee order (long); not someone who will react with a shrug should a muddy dog paw their cream trousers; not someone who takes kindly to being told the bus is terminating here and not at the destination advertised on the front of the bus; not someone who wants to hear that their sauce-on-the-side request didn't get through to the kitchen; someone whose first question at the job interview is can they take two weeks off starting tomorrow — they basically have to, so — and do they get a clothes allowance. Actually, don't get me started on phone use and what it says about you. Get Off Your Phone — Talk to Your Baby!

Amusingly coloured front doors
They don't all have to be Down Pipe or some Farrow & Ball shade of black, but if you do choose to paint your front door Barbie pink or tequila sunrise, then we'll assume that you describe yourself as having wacky taste and that you drink a caramel latte (life and soul of the party).



Does your car take two spaces?

Tidy Euro Man (TEM)
These men may not be European, but they so often are it feels safe to make the sweeping generalisation. What we are talking about here is the very tidy, groomed chap in the narrow fitted shorts with the tucked-in, freshly pressed, pink or yellow polo top and the immaculate loafers or car shoes (no socks, obvs). This is a Tannoy announcement that you are a TEM, you're wealthy, you live in a very tidy world and make a point of not letting the dirty outside world in. Don't ask a TEM to help you to change your tyre or wait with your elderly mother while you get her a glass of water or . . . anything. TEM is not on receive, you know, unless you're a size-zero blonde whose father owns Heinz.

Kids in camel (or shades of biscuit and cream)
By which we mean mothers who dress their kids in camel or shades of biscuit and cream (see TEMs and the whole of the too-precious classes). Sadly, we know everything about these kids' lives right down to the freshly rolled sushi they get served for lunch at their primary school.

French tuckers
To be honest the French tuck is quite an appealing solution to the problem of what to do with your shirt tails (one half gets tucked in at the front, the other is left hanging out), but there's no getting away from it, it looks somewhat contrived. So if you actually French tuck and mean it and you're not a famous fashion stylist, you should expect to be regarded as someone who fancies themselves as stylish and thinks a lot about stuff that — say — a sheep farmer would find next to unbelievable. This doesn't mean you *shouldn't* go ahead and French tuck; judging from the Dunkin' survey, when people were falling over themselves to be identified as sexy, funny, good lovers, fancying yourself as stylish is no crime in 2023.

People who say vagina at every opportunity
All sexes are at this game. They think it shows them to be modern, feminist, open-minded, the opposite of uptight, the kind of person (male) whose best friend is a woman, and the kind of person (female) who will not hesitate to say, "Oh. *Right*, so you're assuming that because I've got a vagina that makes me more likely to X." Ugh. Stop saying vagina all the time. It only proves you are a virtue signaller.

Mothers and daughters who dress the same
Never seen it in real life, but obviously what this says is: "Me Me Me and My Mini Me . . . just in case you haven't got the message." Can this be fun and cute and really rather sweet? No.

People who dress up their dogs
They wanted a baby, they got a dog. That's it. That's what this choice tells us loud and clear, and the owner and dog dresser won't mind if you think that about them. There's no shame in having a dog baby and being a dog mummy in 2023. You could put your dog in a pram with a bonnet on and push it around the park all day and not at any point feel you might be doing something odd (a decade ago someone would have called the little white van).

Exercise
Once it was yoga v Pilates, but now exercise has gone the way of coffee and you can have Reformer Pilates with a frothy topping of boxing and a personal trainer who is mainly (I think mine is) concerned with weighted squats and things that hurt. Your choice of exercise doesn't say a lot about you (basically, boxing is the new Pilates, if you're competitive), but the clothes you choose to exercise in do. It's not rocket science. You're either in love with your body/on the pull and therefore wearing a bikini made out of American tan tights or you're just trying to keep everything from seizing up, in which case you're wearing eight-year-old leggings and a T-shirt.

The still-on festival bracelet
You can tell an awful lot from a man's wrist. It all started with Prince Harry's wrist candy, remember?

Holidays
Stealthcations, as we are now calling them, mark you out as well off, well travelled, well informed, well competitive and generally one of the privileged metropolitans. We're talking about Mawgan Porth, the new place in Cornwall where celebs such as Cate Blanchett and Stanley Tucci reportedly have homes. It's hard to keep up with what your holiday says about you, but this is the latest in smart holidaying: going nowhere, but making sure "nowhere" is picturesque, very close to a couple of five-star restaurants and miles from any campsites.

Elton, Lennon, Marley and me… Wild times with the Rocket Man (and the royals)



As the writing partner of Elton John, Bernie Taupin has found himself in some extraordinary situations, as these exclusive extracts from his new book reveal

It was 1975, Bob Marley and the Wailers had done a blinding set at the Roxy Theatre on Sunset, and afterward John Lennon and I repaired to On The Rox. On The Rox was actually more like a large living room for owner Lou Adler's friends and those he perceived as quirky or interesting. This included, of course, a wide cross section of movie stars, character actors, and rock artists, some currently hip, many legendary, and some of a distinctly vintage nature.

Top-shelf classics like [Jack] Nicholson and [Warren] Beatty propped up the bar alongside neophyte Eagles, and on occasion when not hunkered down in the swamps of Jersey, a fledgling and wiry Bruce Springsteen. Old guard Whisky a Go Go stalwart Johnny Rivers was a regular, as were James Taylor (trying to retrieve his coke spoon from the men's toilet) and legendary scene stealers like Seymour Cassel and Harry Dean Stanton.

Tomorrow
Day2
Sharing a bedroom — and writing Your Song

Right: Bernie Taupin with Elton John c1975. Below: Taupin in 1982



I loved Harry Dean, and on many occasions he'd return with me to my house not five minutes away, where we would stay up until dawn sipping tequila and singing old cowboy songs.

The mix at On The Rox created a continually compelling atmosphere. There was a certain sense of security, the diversity of the members working as a sort of aphrodisiac to settle everyone into unity. No pressure, no competitiveness, just a level playing field devoid of any rubberneckers and voyeuristic interlopers who might tarnish the vibe.

That is, of course, as long as the vibe wasn't tarnished by inappropriate behaviour or the occasional loudmouth. I once punched John Belushi out cold for insulting my girlfriend, an act that impressed him so much that he called me the next day to apologise.

So Messrs Lennon and Taupin are settling into a nice cosy corner when up the stairs and through the velvet curtains saunters Bob Marley, trailing in his wake the Wailers and what appears to be half the population of Kingston. Immediately they engulf us, two white minnows sucked whole into the belly of Rastafari. Their presence is mesmerising, a small army of seemingly willowy and towering regality, all billowing shawls, turbans, and knitted berets of red, green, black, and yellow. They drape themselves and lounge around us, occupying the space with a combination of confidence and gregarious camaraderie, seemingly thrilled (in the coolest way possible) to be languishing next to the legend that



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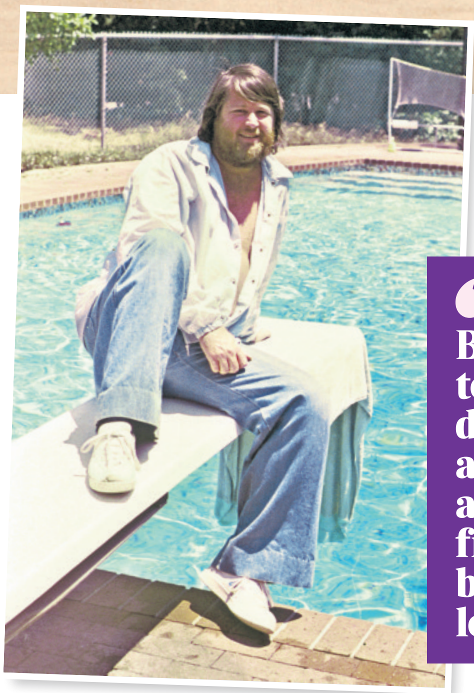


Bob Marley in 1970

“Marley produces a spliff the size of a baby’s arm

“Elton’s inner rage was his worst enemy





Left: Taupin with John Lennon in 1974. Right: Brian Wilson in 1976

“Lennon just smiled and said, ‘Bless him, he’s not well, you know’

“Brian was toasted by demons and lost in a fog of fragility but still a lovely man

is Lennon. It appears that even Jah this evening bows out as his apostles succumb to Fab Four fever.

Marley is diminutive in comparison to his compatriots, but by no means a lesser individual. It’s obvious he’s the engine, the focal point, the very eye of this mystical hurricane. He is nonchalant and ethereal, distant and sanguine in equal measures, the movement of his eyes and the contours of his features giving away nothing that would allow you to put a finger on what flips the switch electrifying his mesmerising and shamanistic performances.

It’s a surreal scene kicked up a notch when Marley reaches into his shoulder bag and produces a spliff the size of a baby’s arm. Apparently that’s all it takes, as if on cue his Jamaican brethren follow suit producing their own large and lethal looking joints. “Aptly named,” I think to myself as they strike up and light up.

And this is when things get fuzzy. Slowly, I began to feel totally immobile as if I were epoxied to the couch by some Rastafarian super glue. John looked at me, and I looked at John, but no words were forthcoming.

I’ve been pretty stoned at several points in my life. In fact I once ingested half a block of opium on a night flight from New York to Barbados and spent two days in the airport because I had no idea where I was. This wasn’t like that. This was like when you hear about those people who are pronounced dead but they’re really still alive and inside they’re screaming and praying for a tear to appear in order to save them from a premature burial.

Unable to move my head, the best I could manage was a sideways glance. At this point the smoke cleared slightly and in my narcotised state, I saw the citizens of Trenchtown on fire. Or so it seemed. For as they toked in tandem and exhaled, the smoke crawled in serpentine swirls up across their chests and into the density of their heavily coiled braids. Here it lingered momentarily before exiting their dreadlocks, billowing forth like some simmering Rastaman Vesuvius.

Frankly, in my state it was alarming, and quite honestly if Haile Selassie had floated into the room riding a lion it wouldn’t have been any less disturbing. The rest of the night is unrecountable for obvious reasons, and only the good Lord knows how we managed to wake up in our own beds.

Sadly, my last encounter with John was several days later when we reconvened to attend a party at the home of Jeanne Martin, the recently divorced wife of the incomparable Dean. Still recovering from our encounter with Bob Marley and the deadly spliffs, a relatively sane afternoon soiree seemed a genteel alternative to, as John put it, “Seeing Bunny Wailer in a steaming tea cosy.”

It was all terribly Hollywood with an array of current celebs and beautiful people relaxing, and as is always the norm at such events, the air of “I belong” and “I don’t wish to seem impressed that John Lennon and David Bowie are mingling in my branded space” was evident.

In all honesty it was an airy to-do that was quite jolly and easygoing until the somewhat hefty presence of Brian Wilson plopped down beside me and whispered breathlessly into my ear, “Bernie, Bernie, will you introduce me to John Lennon.”

I’d met Brian on several occasions, and we were acquainted to the point of nodding acknowledgment and casual conversation. I was also convinced in this instant that there must most certainly have been some time in the not-distant-past that the Beatle and Beach Boy had crossed paths. But then this was Brian Wilson circa 1975: the acid aftermath, the paranoia, the sandbox years. Still a lovely man, and in spite of being toasted by demons and lost in a fog of fragility, he was still someone to respect deeply and treat with TLC.

So naturally, I acquiesced and turned to John relaying that Brian would like to say hello, and of course, he did gently and pleasantly with no hint of surprise at the request. They conversed briefly and very soon John and I found ourselves in some other corner of the room where Brian found me and whispered once again into my ear that he’d like to meet John Lennon.

Surprised but not terribly unprepared, given the individual at hand, I remained unfazed and once

Continued on page 7 ▶

Ask Professor Tanya Byron

I am 75, overweight and don't like my body. What can I do?

Q I am 75 and my husband is about the same age. Our sex life is much better now than when we were young despite some issues with erectile dysfunction.

My husband regards my body as really beautiful. I have never seen myself as this. I am a survivor of abuse when I was very young, instigated by my mother. I have had a lot of help coming to terms with this, but have always found it hard to feel positive towards my body.

However, I do feel really grateful to it because, apart from a few aches and pains, it does what I want, and I am so fortunate that is still the case. But I am 5ft 5in and weigh 13st 10lb. I am therefore bombarded with messages from health professionals and in the media that I am morbidly obese and at risk of every illness.

I have tried so many ways to lose weight. I went to a slimming club and stuck rigidly to the programme, but gained weight and was told that I must have been cheating. I have tried all sorts of diets. Believe me, losing weight is certainly not as simple as having a calorie deficit between what you eat and what you use up in a day. I do not eat cream cakes and chips. I try to eat a Mediterranean diet. I am scared to go to the doctor because they will just say that I need to lose weight.

I would like to feel "comfortable in my own skin". What can I do so that I don't spend the rest of my life unhappy with my body and caught between these conflicting messages? ***Jocelyn***

A How good it is to hear that you and your husband have a sex life that is much better than when you were young, and that he regards your body as really beautiful. At 75 you are who you are. Your body has brought you through many years, and in some areas of life you are enjoying it.

Sadly, however, in other areas you are unhappy with your body and trapped by this self-loathing in ways that are too familiar to many, especially women. I am sorry to read of your abuse at the hands of your mother and that this childhood trauma, plus your self-consciousness about your weight, has left you feeling uncomfortable in your own skin. I suspect that in some ways these issues are linked, and in other ways not. I strongly believe that you need and deserve to live in a body that you respect and feel comfortable with.

To help you to begin to deconstruct your self-loathing, I want to correct what you have been told — you are not morbidly obese. Any calculation made would probably be BMI (body mass index), based on your weight in kilograms divided by the square of your height in metres, and by this index you are not in the obesity band.

BMI was developed by Lambert Adolphe Jacques Quetelet, a Belgian mathematician (not a physician), in the 1830s to give a quick and easy way to measure the degree of obesity of the general population to assist the government in allocating resources.

His sample was only white people, and Quetelet was clear that BMI was not to be used for individuals, only populations. There are many problems with using BMI to determine health — it is an inaccurate measure of body fat content and does not take into account other markers that affect the relationship between weight and health, including muscle mass, bone density, overall body composition, biomarkers that can better predict the risks of diseases and mortality, fitness level, pre-existing diseases and racial and sex differences.

Understanding weight is complex. A number of studies have demonstrated that some individuals classified as obese have lower cardiovascular risk and an improved metabolic profile, while some "normal BMI" people are metabolically unhealthy.

> **Losing weight is not as simple as having a calorie deficit**



While obesity can increase risks of cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea and some cancers, studies have also found that overweight or obese individuals with these conditions are less likely to die from them than normal or underweight people, and that people who are obese show better post-surgical survival than those of "normal weight". This has been called "the obesity paradox".

Fat isn't the enemy. Fat is crucial to energy, temperature regulation, immune-system function and brain health. There's no need to be thinner or fatter to be healthy when considered alongside other factors. A study in 2017 found that people with high BMIs who were very physically active had the same likelihood of heart disease as those with normal BMIs who were just as active.

It is recognised that waist-to-height ratio is better than BMI for predicting cardiovascular diseases because BMI does not reflect body-fat distribution — keeping waist circumference to less than half of height can help to increase life expectancy.

Other research has shown that people with a low waist-to-hip ratio were less likely to die early than those with higher ratios. This is calculated by dividing waist measurement by hip measurement. The World Health Organisation classifies a waist-to-hip ratio as high risk if above 0.85 for women and above 0.9 for men.

An alternative suggested is Smart BMI (SBMI), which factors in age and gender. Your SBMI is 41/70, and the ideal ranges between 30/70 and 39/70, so by this metric you are overweight (not obese). While your body fat is slightly above average, health is compromised if blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels are at unhealthy levels.

Because the "healthiest" BMI range increases with age, at 75 an elevated weight is far less important than it may have been earlier in your life — your SBMI will decrease by about one point within ten years if you manage to keep your weight stable. Indeed, a 2019 study highlighted that as we age being "moderately overweight" seems to offer protection against developing multiple comorbid diseases, making it a "marker of a healthy ageing process".

Stepping away from the numbers, let's focus on you. The abuse you suffered at the hands of your mother will have created confusion, self-loathing and shame. You have bravely tackled these issues in therapy, but what strikes me is that negative messaging about your body weight will trigger that trauma-associated shame.

Many people will know what fat-shaming comments feel like. As with abuse, such comments will feel unwanted and intrusive, therefore maintaining body hatred.

You have got to a stage in your life where you can shed the opinions of others and empower yourself to live with self-compassion. Recognise the limitations of health metrics used (BMI). Ditch the diets — they don't work; if they did people wouldn't always be on and off and on them.

Health is the focus. Enjoy a healthy diet, don't smoke, drink moderately, exercise daily (sex is a great form of exercise) and reclaim who you are as not being defined by your weight.

Finally, to sharpen your arguments against those who tell you to lose weight, read the excellent book *You Are Not a Before Picture* by Alex Light, in which all the erroneous arguments about weight, health and all associated weight stigma are challenged in an evidence-based way. You be you. I wish you well.

Free books of the month

This September, read Agatha Christie's most exotic murder mystery, *Death on the Nile* and *Dumb Money* by Ben Mezrich. Also, listen to *The Guilty Couple* by C.L. Taylor.



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The Queen said: 'Lichfield's gorn again'

Continued from page 5 ▶

more turned to my party date inquiring with a raised eyebrow if he would once more like to meet Brian Wilson?

Similarly unruffled but obviously amused, introductions were made and small talk was made.

Groundhog Day resumed and not more than ten minutes later Brian, wide-eyed and insistent, waylaid me pleading in no uncertain terms that he must be introduced to John Lennon. It was somewhat unnerving, but still harbouring the belief that the genius that was Brian Wilson was temporarily on vacation, what could I do?

Slightly exhausted but prepared to remain sympathetic, I approached John and ventured somewhat uncomfortably to once more relay Brian's request. Straight-faced and unwavering, John once more turned to engage the clearly overheated Beach Boy.

Before long he was back. We made a beeline for the door rather than fall into the same trap a fourth time.

"What did he want to talk about?" I had to ask.

John shook his head, "*Across the Universe*."

"Sorry about that," I said.

John looked at me, smiled, and in that unmistakable Liverpudlian drawl just said, "Bless him, he's not well, you know."

Our private gig for the Queen at Windsor Castle

On the cusp of global superstardom, Elton John became the musical brandy and cigars for a motley group of blue bloods and upper-crust insiders, his generosity hijacked by the crown and channelled into securing his services as an in-house jukebox. Inseparable as we were in those early days, suffice to say I duly accompanied my obliging buddy, quizzical and happy to be a fly on the wall for this initial foray into the surrealism of an intimate royal gig!

Apart from the possible suggestion that Elton refrain from playing *The King Must Die* or standing on the piano to proclaim "Are you ready to rock, you royal mother***ers!" I remained on the sidelines, a mere tag-along and inconsequential shadow masquerading as a genial factotum.

The gig in question took place in what seemed like the bowels of Windsor Castle. Like everything associated with the monarchy, the room in which Elton was to perform was musty and drab, as if hanging in a capsulated time warp waiting for some new age prince to come and kiss it into the 20th century. The audience was slim, but packed with enough overdressed patricians and eccentricity to warrant weirdness of the first order. The only recognisable presence and actual product of modernity was Patrick Anson, 5th Earl of Lichfield who, while well respected as a celebrity photographer, was equally renowned as a notorious libertine. This fact was soon established when, during a particularly genteel rendition of *Your Song*, said earl keeled over and crashed to the ground in an intoxicated stupor. Not a head turned and no attention was paid to this unfortunate interruption. It was as if it was a standard procedure, something expected and simply a repetitive occurrence. In its immediate aftermath, the Queen simply turned her head slightly, said "Lichfield's gorn again," and in came the clean-up crew. Four footmen, powdered wigs and all, trundled down the aisle, picked up the unconscious earl, and whisked him out as if under a cloak of invisibility.

ALAMY; MIRRORPIX





Top: Elton John being presented to Queen Elizabeth II in 1977. Above: Lord Lichfield in 1972

> **The earl keeled over and crashed to the ground in an intoxicated stupor**

Getting lost in a cocaine blizzard

Almost a decade before Elton entered rehab, he was not doing well. It was the early 1980s and deep in the stranglehold of addiction, he had rented a large gloomy apartment in Paris with the intention of writing some songs for our next album. He had asked me to come over and work with him, which I did, also making the very sensible decision of renting my own place.

The biggest problem I had, outside of the depressing atmosphere permeating Elton's accommodations, were his hours of cognisance. For me, drugs had not yet become a cross to bear. I could dabble, yet do without, and this made for an unbalanced work schedule. Simply put, Elton slept most of the day and worked late into the night, or until the cocaine got the best of him.

What made things even worse was how he was composing. He had a workroom set up with a bank of electronic keyboards and rudimentary recording equipment. He would sit there for what seemed like hours cranking out melodies, most of them forgettable, but to someone as high as he was they were brilliant.

It was torture for me on several levels: one being that he expected me to come up with lyrics for these unremarkable tunes; the other was much more upsetting: to see your very best friend so disconnected and raw to the bone was heartbreaking. This man who was talented beyond belief and one of the finest musicians and melodists in the musical firmament in the thrall of crash and burn was positively crippling. Once I could make my escape, I'd return to my apartment thoroughly depressed and emotionally drained.

Not much came out of these writing sessions and what did was nothing to be proud of. Eventually, two or three of them ended up on the *Jump Up!* album, but like everything else written between our amicable split in the late 1970s until our return to form with *Too Low for Zero* in 1983, these tracks were most definitely subpar by our standards. There were too many cooks in the kitchen, an ever-increasing amount of drugs, and a severe lack of communication between the two of us. The cohesiveness of what had made our partnership work was now fractured.

Elton goes to rehab

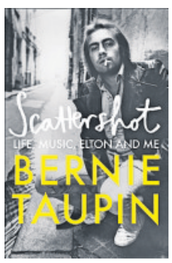
It was 1990 and Elton had recently decided to change his life drastically and had checked into a hospital in Chicago to undergo rehabilitation from a handful of addictions.

Seeing Elton drained of the poisons that were eating him alive was an emotional event that pushed a lot of buttons. During the autumn of 1989, I was privy to the months of physical decline that were hampering his better judgment during the North American leg of his *Sleeping with the Past* tour. Elton's mood swings had become increasingly more erratic and his nocturnal post-show behaviour was so desperately out of control that it caused an alarm and anxiety in me that I'd never experienced before. It was a downward spiral that could have only one conclusion. If he didn't get help, he was most assuredly going to die. His inner rage was his worst enemy, and any form of verbal confrontation would only up the ante. I felt completely powerless, as if the intimacy of our mutual affection had been boarded up and wrapped in razor wire. Those withering days were an incongruous mix of melancholy that left me torn between a liberating romance and blood on my hands.

After a rocky start, Elton had persevered and overcame the initial horrors of detoxing. Smooth sailing has no place in rehab; it's painful, depressing, humiliating, and above all else, lonely. You're there to make it on your own, with only a hefty dose of psychoanalytic tough love to ease you along. Encountering him clear-eyed, lucid, and mastering menial tasks that had become incomprehensible to him since we lived with his mother at Frome Court was an enlightening amusement tinged with pathos. Making his own bed and learning to operate a washing machine might not seem earth shattering, but for Elton John they were an emancipating tonic that flushed out another form of equally habitual dependency.

It was the first time that Elton had been allowed visitors, and I think at that point any friendly face would have warranted an appreciative reception. Still, me being there I think meant something, or at least I'd hoped it would. I know for my part it was absolutely necessary on so many different levels. Support might have been the main factor, and while I eschewed any blatantly patronising overtures, my real purpose was encouragement. He needed to be reassured that his musical genius would not evaporate along with the crutch of drugs, and that a clearer tomorrow spelt a new beginning. It was when he read me his farewell love letter to cocaine that I lost it. It was a simply magnificent piece of writing, a Dear John, if you will, to the White Lady. I was so overcome by this testimonial that my eyes welled and the tears flowed freely. I knew then that my best friend was back.

***Scattershot: Life, Music, Elton and Me* by Bernie Taupin is published tomorrow (Monoray, £25). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on online orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members**



Bernie Taupin will be doing a UK book tour in October: scattershotlive.com

first night

dance

Generations: Three Short Ballets

Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre, Leeds
★★★★☆

Federico Bonelli is still fresh in his post as the new artistic director of Northern Ballet. Last week he launched the autumn season with a tasty, if atypical, trio of one-act dances.

The programme's title, *Generations*, is validated by the inclusion of the nonagenarian Dutch choreographer Hans van Manen's *Adagio Hammerklavier*. Dating from 1973, and in the middle of the bill, Van Manen's striking sextet is anything but middling. The other two works — the Royal Ballet soloist Benjamin Ella's *Joie de Vivre* and the New York City Ballet star Tiler Peck's *Intimate Pages* — are, respectively, UK and world premieres. If neither is an instant classic, each is well crafted. It helped that the dancing throughout was crisp — and all the music played live.

They did well to get Peck on board and the inspiration for her work is Janacek's Second String Quartet, subtitled *Intimate Letters* and a musical representation of the composer's infatuation with a younger female muse. In Peck's hands this becomes a neurotic fantasy. Harris Beattie lands the central role as a man driven to distraction by three women (Sarah Chun, Aerys Merrill and Kirica Takahashi, all fine) who flit on and off stage. The dancers, sleek in red garb, do a creditable job of harnessing the choreography's centrifugal energy.

Ella's curtain-raiser is, by contrast, a paean to young love set to a selection of piano and violin pieces by Sibelius. Ella has a facility for devising pretty — if also pretty conventional — steps.

But the evening's most challenging, satisfying and adult work is the Van Manen. Taking his cues from a time-stretching arrangement of the adagio movement of Beethoven's Piano Sonata No 29, he created a dramatic dance of precision and stylised erotic tension. Remarkably, the more restrained the dancers are the more heat they generate.

Donald Hutera

To September 16 in Leeds, October 31-November 2 at Linbury Studio Theatre, Royal Opera House; northernballet.com



Jaquelina Livieri as Margarita Xirgu and Hanna Hipp as Federico García Lorca in an opera by the Argentinian Osvaldo Golijov

Memories of Lorca's muse

Welsh National Opera did Osvaldo Golijov's work proud, says Rebecca Franks

opera

Ainadamar

Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff
★★★★☆

This co-production of Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar* arrives in Cardiff on the wave of glowing reviews, after it was first aired last autumn by Scottish Opera. And it certainly lived up to them in a well-oiled performance by Welsh National Opera thrumming with intensity and energy. The Argentinian composer wrote the opera in 2003, before a long creative drought saw his popular reputation fade. Could this *Ainadamar* rekindle appetite for his music in the UK?

It's a heady theatrical experience, either way, and one you'll not want to miss. The director Deborah Colker deftly does what ENO did for Philip Glass's *Akhnaten* and *Satyagraha*: she creates a production so compelling that any doubts I have about the score melt away, at least during its 80 minutes. The music is only one element of a greater whole. In telling the story of the life and murder at the "fountain of tears" (Ainadamar) of the Spanish poet Federico García Lorca, Colker envelopes us in her multilayered vision. The result would be sensory overload, if it wasn't so thoughtfully done.

Sung in Spanish and told through the recollections of Lorca's muse, the opera swirls with sorrow-tinged memories — though this flashback format sometimes dulls the drama. In that central role of the actress Margarita Xirgu, Jaquelina Livieri is full of vitality, despite some unevenness in the final high stretches. Video projections by Tai Rosner heighten the piece's expressive power, beamed on to the circular veiled curtain hanging in the middle of the atmospherically lit stage. Its fringes swish and shift, as the story moves from Madrid to Cuba to Granada, wishful dreams to deep regrets. At the heart of this maelstrom of poetry and politics is Lorca, and the wonderfully moody mezzo of Hanna Hipp, who is hounded by Alfredo Tejada's fascist Falangist officer, and his haunting flamenco-inspired cry.

> **"The production is so compelling that doubts about the score melt**

Mesmerising flamenco dancers are the visual counterpart to Golijov's score, which is sensual, violent and full of rhythmic drive. The percussion section of the WNO Orchestra deserved its onstage bow. And if the music sometimes thrills more than it moves, the conductor Matthew Kofi Waldren does a superb job in capturing its melting pot of potent emotions and rich cultural influences.

In Cardiff until September 26, then on tour to November 22; wno.org.uk

theatre

Dracula: Mina's Reckoning

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen
★★★☆☆

There is something fitting about seeing this adaptation of Bram Stoker's horror classic in Aberdeen during a September heatwave. Surely there could be no more welcome refuge for vampires from the deadly sunshine than the cool of the largest theatre in the northeast of Scotland.

The action of Stoker's novel has been transferred from Whitby to Aberdeenshire by the playwright Morna Pearson. Much of the dialogue is infused with Doric, the language of the northeast, while Kenneth MacLeod's set design is based on the ruined Slains Castle near Peterhead, an inspiration for the 1897 novel.

A framing device in which Mina Murray (Danielle Jam) admits herself to an asylum in Aberdeen and regales a crowd of female residents with tales of her encounters with and escape from Count Dracula (Liz Kettle) allows a shift away from the masculine vein of Stoker's original. Jam's resourceful Mina is our focus, rather than the passive diarist of the book.

These innovations aside, Pearson's adaptation, for the National Theatre of Scotland and Aberdeen Performing Arts in association with the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, sticks to the novel's trajectory, with the eight-strong cast of women and non-binary actors playing a number of roles. At times the script sticks too faithfully to the story. Certain episodes, including Jonathan Harker's (Catriona Faint) interview with the vampire at Castle Dracula, and the arrival of Van Helsing (Natalie Arle-Toyne), distract.

Sally Cookson's production is at its most compelling when it homes in on Mina and Dracula (Jam and Kettle are excellent). The show's finest scenes, including one in which the count compels Mina into a reverie of her childhood, have an absorbing intimacy to them. Tonally the production doesn't always cohere, but the interaction of MacLeod's backdrop with Aideen Malone's lighting, video by Lewis den Hertog and Benji Bower's horror score makes for some delightful grand guignol atmospherics.

Allan Radcliffe

Touring to October 28, nationaltheatrescotland.com

proms 2023

Last Night of the Proms

Royal Albert Hall
★★★★☆

Last year's Last Night of the Proms was cancelled because of the Queen's death. So it was reassuring that all the traditional elements were back in place on Saturday. People roared out the usual patriotic songs about chariots of fire, imperial hope and glory and British naval power — seemingly impervious to the chaotic state of the nation outside. Quite a lot of those standing in the sweltering arena waved blue-and-gold EU flags — something that hardly ever happened when we were in the EU.

Lurid new lighting in the hall, and even more lurid LED wristbands handed out to the audience, added even more colours. And Marin Alsop, the American conductor in charge of the excellent BBC Symphony Orchestra, gave more or less the same speech as she did at her two previous Last Night outings — focusing on gender equality, or the lack of it.

The Queen's death had other effects. We finally heard a premiere that should have been played a year ago. James Wilson's *1922* was written to celebrate the BBC's centenary in 2022. It proved bright and breezy — like an extended news bulletin theme tune.

That wasn't the only premiere . Laura Karpman's *Higher. Further. Faster. Together.* is the main theme of *The Marvels*, a "feminist superhero" movie released in November. That featured the cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, who also played beautifully in Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Deep River*.

He was eclipsed, however, by the other soloist, the glorious Norwegian soprano Lise Davidsen. No shame in that — so was everything else. There are few singers of whom you feel the Albert Hall is small for their voice, but as she hurled out arias by Verdi, Mascagni, Wagner and Kalman, the thought certainly crossed one's mind.



The glorious Norwegian soprano Lise Davidsen eclipsed everyone else

Friday's Prom featured the blind Japanese pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii in Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto. How he learns such a volume of notes is beyond my comprehension, but sadly the result doesn't communicate much musicality to me. Clearly I'm in a minority of one, because everyone else stood and cheered.

Nor was I much engaged by the UK premiere of Gabriela Ortiz's short orchestral piece *Clara* — basically a Mexican dance flanked by ethereal dissonances and plinky-plonk percussion, yet apparently inspired by the relationship between Clara and Robert Schumann. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the conductor Domingo Hindoyan had more fun with Arthur Honegger's sizzling 1928 work *Rugby*, played minutes before the Rugby World Cup kicked off in Paris.

Richard Morrison

Available on BBC Sounds and iPlayer

'Wedding vows create false expectations'

Johnny Flynn talks to Ed Potton about fidelity, playing Bowie and his new sitcom

RII SCHROER/EYEVINE



For someone who is cool on the idea of fame, Johnny Flynn has played an awful lot of famous people. On film he was David Bowie in *Stardust* and Ian Fleming in *Operation Mincemeat*, on TV he was Albert Einstein in *Genius*, and he has just played Richard Burton in *The Motive and the Cue* at the National Theatre. And now: a fictional but well-known political journalist in *The Lovers*, a subversive new sitcom.

"Maybe directors have a perverse enjoyment in watching somebody who feels really awkward trying to puff their chest out," Flynn says over Zoom from his home in east London. Maybe it's because the stars he plays also struggle with celebrity and he is good at articulating that. "The whole thing is paper-thin," he says. Bowie was "desperately insecure and compared himself to everybody, and Richard Burton was the same, dealing with it with drink and a bravura."

Flynn, 40, is not beating back hordes of fans like those two, though he may be after *The Lovers* and *Ripley*, a Netflix series based on *The Talented Mr Ripley* in which he plays the Jude Law role. Another troubled peacock. There is also his music career: he has released five albums of pastoral folk with another on the way and wrote the lovely theme songs for the BBC comedy *Detectorists* and the 2020 film adaptation of Jane Austen's *Emma*, as well as starring in the latter with Anya Taylor-Joy.

So proper stardom seems inevitable, even if it comes with caveats. Flynn is a pretty boy with scars, literal ones. The marks on his face came from an attack by a Staffordshire bull terrier when he was three in South Africa, where his family lived before moving to the UK. He was left with a large hole in his cheek and needed reconstructive surgery. For a while he wouldn't take off his Spider-Man mask but he loved his new nickname at school, Scarface, partly because it was an improvement on the previous one, Rubber Johnny. The scars haven't done his career any harm. "I had — perhaps not any more after all those nights as a parent — quite a boyish look that was offset with scars," he says. Michael Pearce, who directed him as a troubled man in the thriller *Beast*, said "the scars helped".

In *The Lovers* Seamus, a self-obsessed London media darling, falls for the potty-mouthed Janet (Róisín Gallagher), who works in a Belfast supermarket and refers to female masturbation as "slapping your kebab". In one sense it belongs in the tradition of *Roman Holiday*, *Notting Hill* and the recent *Starstruck,* and it's very funny. Yet it also tackles heavier stuff: suicide, infidelity (Seamus has a posh girlfriend, Frankie, played by Alice Eve) and the disconnect between elites and everyone else. Seamus fronts a TV show but Janet has never heard of him, just as he has never heard of Stacey Solomon. Yet he is dubious about his world. "To have somebody in that elitist realm say, 'This is bullshit' is so satisfying," Flynn says.

As research he watched a lot of Robert Peston and Andrew Marr. "It's fun watching the bullshittery of the Westminster programmes," he says. Peston is the stepfather of one of his friends. "I saw him at a wedding dancing to his son's band, pogoing in a very unseemly manner. Seamus would be that sort of person". Maybe crossed with Dermot O'Leary. "Seamus thinks he's down with the kids."

The Lovers hangs on the chemistry between him and Gallagher, of which there is plenty. He looks pleased. "The people from Sky say nice things, but I feel like they've got to." The six-parter was written by David Ireland, who is better known for plays such as *Cyprus Avenue*. "That's what grabbed me," he says, "With TV there's a dimension that's often lacking, a darkness or a depth."

When Seamus meets Janet he is running from Ulster youths whom he has riled by describing, in a piece to camera, "the legacy of violence still resting on their shoulders". Janet, meanwhile, is about to shoot herself. "The funniest stuff is real life, and suicide is a part of real life," Flynn says. "Seamus is f***ing terrible at talking to her about it, but that is a responsible thing to show. It makes you think about how you would talk to somebody in that situation."

Then there's the fact that Seamus is cheating on Frankie, with whom he insists he is still in love. Flynn keeps having conversations about polygamy with friends, some of whom have tried it. Would he? "I can only respond by saying I'm very happily married," he says, covering his face with his hand. His wife is the stage designer Beatrice Minns, with whom he has three children. "Wedding vows create false expectations and guilt about feeling things for other people". The show is "not encouraging people to have affairs. It's just looking at a couple who feel something that's undeniable."

Johnny Flynn. Below: Flynn with Róisín Gallagher in The Lovers



"I've fought hard for the things that are worth doing

There was a bit of that in *The Motive and the Cue*, in which his Burton and Tuppence Middleton's Elizabeth Taylor played hot-blooded newlyweds. In one scene he deftly removed her knickers during a chat about *The Merchant of Venice*. Jack Thorne's play is about Burton doing *Hamlet* on Broadway in 1964, directed by John Gielgud (masterfully played by Mark Gatiss). Flynn bristled with charisma, whether in turtleneck and slacks or vest and Y-fronts.

He drew on memories of his actor father, Eric Flynn, who "had a studied ease that I could never get in real life", he says. "That's why it's fun to try and have that swagger." While Burton's father "sort of abandoned him", Flynn's was "very loving, but my grandfather was quite tough on him". In one scene his Burton talked about his father. "Suddenly I'm my father talking about his father. Which is weirdly healing in an ancestral way." Flynn is into this stuff, having done "family constellation therapy", in which you analyse "the emotional positions that you are in relationship to each other".

Eric never wanted his children to act but he failed on that front — four out of the five Flynn kids did: Johnny, his sister Lillie and their half-brothers, Daniel and Jerome, the *Game of Thrones* star. "It was an intoxicating environment to be around as kids," he says. "We all grew up in the backstage of theatres."

Flynn's father watched him in school plays and told him he moved his hands too much. After two English boarding schools he got into Webber Douglas drama school in London. "Dad was like, 'If you're serious about acting, there's only one school you consider going to.'" That was Rada, where he had gone. "He just couldn't help himself. But I've forgiven him." The therapy worked, then.

He and Jerome are close. "He's exactly 20 years older than me — we talk about acting a huge amount." In *The Lovers* Seamus slags off *Game of Thrones* but he thinks Jerome will see the funny side. Like him, Johnny combines acting and music, though I don't think Robson & Jerome ever mastered the hurdy-gurdy. Flynn's next album, made with the nature writer Robert Macfarlane and due in November, is "about ancient burial and rebirth, the sun rising and moon rising".

If it's half as good as his captivating, Nick Drake-ish theme for *Detectorists*, it'll be a cracker. That song had its roots in Jez Butterworth's *Jerusalem* — Flynn appeared in a West End run with Mackenzie Crook, who went on to create and star in *Detectorists*. "There's so much of *Jerusalem* in that show," Flynn says. "That pastoral ancient landscape evoked through treasure." When he sang the song in the series his character was called Johnny Piper, an amalgam of his name and Lee Piper, his role in *Jerusalem*, which got him an Olivier nomination.

Acting and music met again in *Stardust*, on which his delicate portrayal of Bowie included singing. It had mixed reviews, partly because it didn't feature the Dame's music — he did covers. Flynn was "quite angry" at the way it was positioned. People expecting another *Bohemian Rhapsody* or *Rocketman* were "let down" — it was more oblique, in the vein of the John Lennon film *Nowhere Boy*.

Still, he is proud of *Stardust* and feels lucky to juggle his two careers. "It's hard for people to see you as one thing if you're doing another. I've fought hard for the things that are worth doing, whilst trying to be a good dad." He thinks he has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. "One of my kids has been diagnosed with it and it's genetic, so it's quite likely." Like many people with ADHD he can hyper-focus on one task. "It feels like a superpower but it has to be a thing that really interests me."

There are plenty of those. From *One Life*, a forthcoming film in which he plays Nicholas Winton, who rescued Jewish children from the Nazis, to *Ripley*, with Andrew Scott in the title role. Set in "prime *La Dolce Vita* era" Italy, it's "much more wintry, whereas the film felt quite sunny."

Flynn's other passion is to "stare at things" in the British Museum. Does that tie in with constellation therapy? "They're both about a belief that the present is not separate from the past," he says. "There's arrogance about every modern society: they think they're a continuation of technology and ideas. But going back is the right thing to do."

***The Lovers* is on Sky Atlantic/Now**

times2

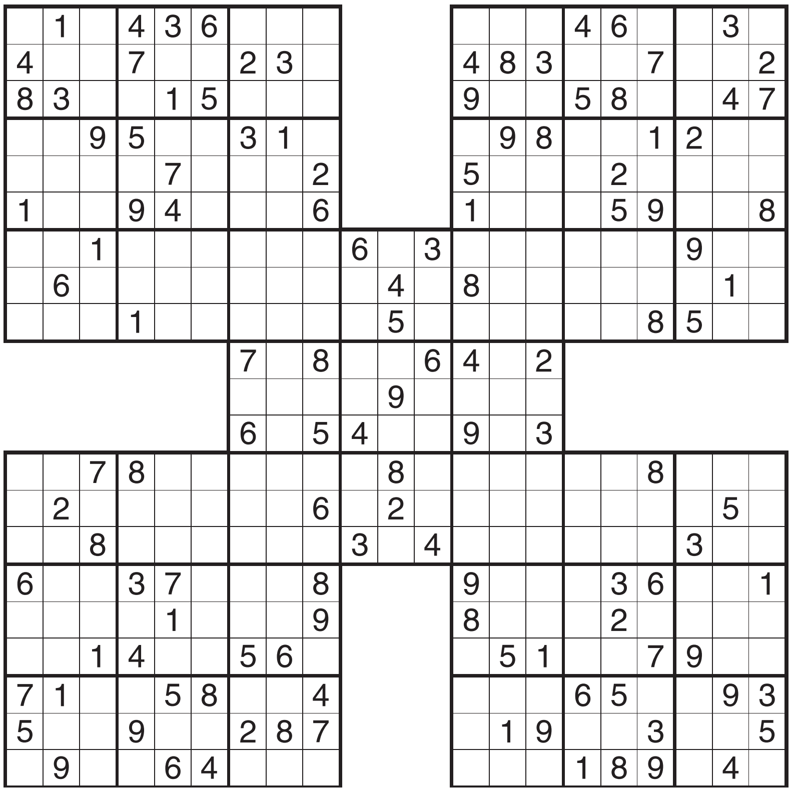
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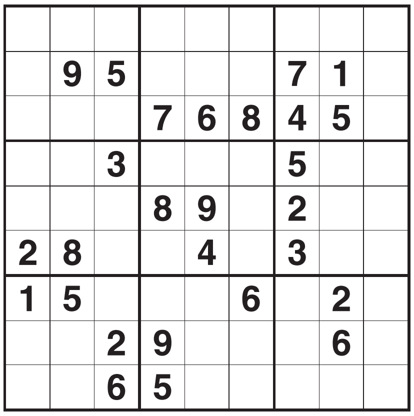
Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai easy

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

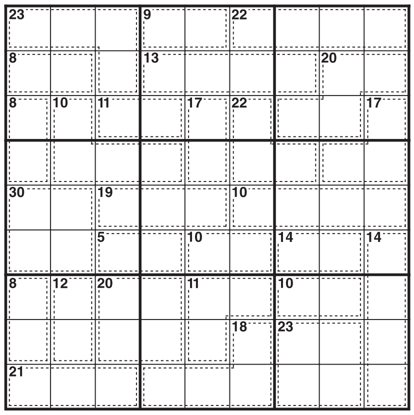


Sudoku super fiendish



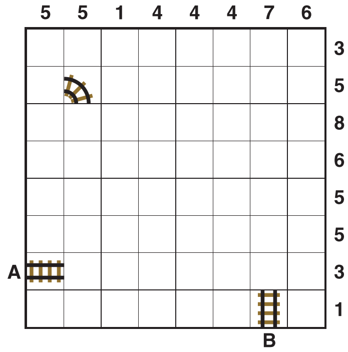
Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



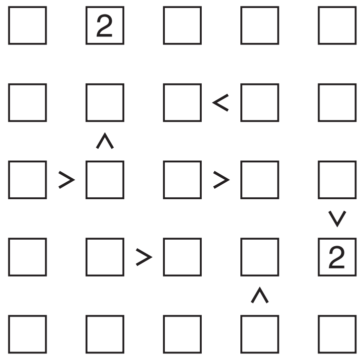
Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

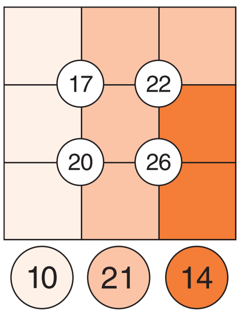


Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.



Suko

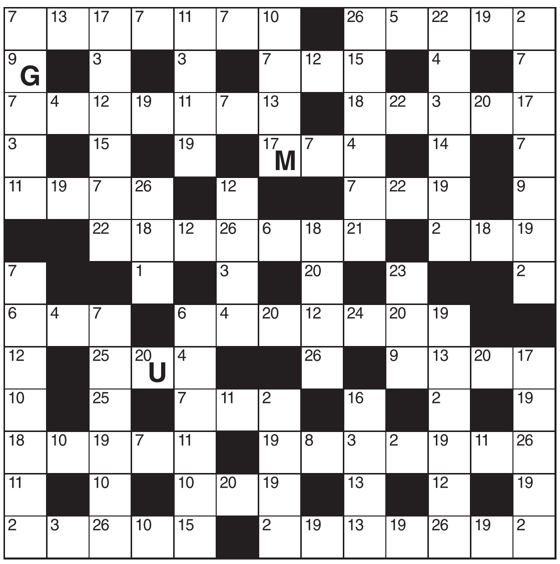


Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

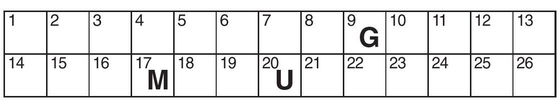
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Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

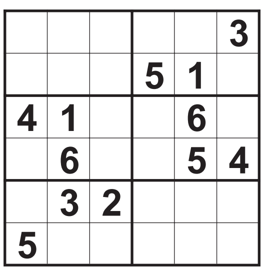


A B C D E F ~~G~~ H I J K L ~~M~~ N O P Q R S T ~~U~~ V W X Y Z



Mini Sudoku

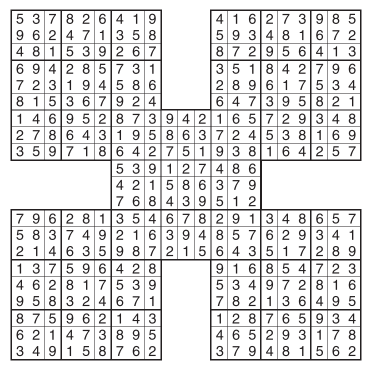
Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6



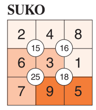
Solutions in tomorrows Times2

Thursday's solutions

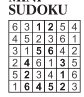
SAMURAI



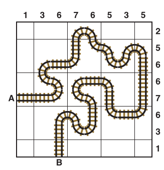
SUKO



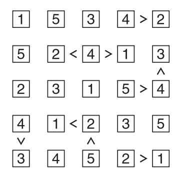
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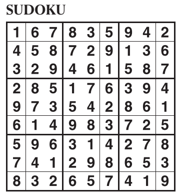
TRAIN TRACKS



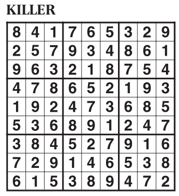
FUTOSHIKI



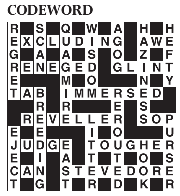
SUDOKU



KILLER



CODEWORD



Jamie Oliver makes a meal of the superlatives

Carol Midgley
TV review



Jamie Cooks the Mediterranean
Channel 4
★★★☆☆

The Day the Queen Died
Channel 5
★★★★☆

Jamie Oliver compared choosing a main course in Britain to boring marital monogamy in his new series, **Jamie Cooks the Mediterranean**. "In the UK you have to commit to one dish … like a marriage," he said. "With mezze you can afford to take a risk and try different things." Ooh, careful, Jamie, married father of five. Still, he's right. A big plate of one thing is dull and the small plates you get in Greece are how food should be served.

Oliver travelled around Thessaloniki and thereabouts looking for recipe ideas and soon exhausted his larder of compliments. "I'm buzzing!" "This is edible history!" "That is like an oil painting," he gushed.

When celebrity chefs go abroad they never say, "It's fine, but nothing special. I've had better at Pizza Express in Solihull," like folk on holiday, do they? Oh, for a food show in which they send it back, saying: "I wouldn't feed that to the dog."

No, instead his brain was "whirling" with all the loveliness, although the stuffed beetroot and courgettes did look lovely. It must be hard to keep coming up with new recipes to sell yet more books, especially now Oliver senior has a new rival snapping at his heels. His son Buddy, 12, has landed a cooking show at the BBC.

There was more evidence of the healthiness of the Mediterranean diet when we met a man of 103. Oliver asked him for the key to longevity. His answer was: "Eat a bit of everything … and drink wine." Good man.

Channel-hoppers may have been startled to see Huw Edwards reading the news last night. It was actually a clip of him announcing the death of Elizabeth II in **The Day the Queen Died: Minute by Minute**, but it was the first time viewers had seen him behind a BBC desk since he was suspended in July. "Minute by minute" sounds a touch gratuitous, especially with its ticking clock counting down to the announcement. But the mood of this timeline was sober: journalists and commentators telling how they responded as the news that the Queen was ill filtered through.

Dermot Murnaghan shoved a black tie in his pocket and "self-deployed" to the Buckingham Palace area when rumours mounted that "London Bridge" was falling (the codeword for the Queen dying) to be the man on the spot. Tasked with delivering this momentous story, he told himself "don't mess it up", but then the rain caused the Autocue to freeze. We saw the moment of his long pause before ad-libbing. But it all added to the magnitude of the occasion. Journalists had been rehearsing this for years but it's never how you expect it will be.

The Daily Mail's Richard Kay told how a maid had gone into the Queen's room that morning to open her curtains and found "something about her demeanour" that "wasn't right". The events of the day were weaved well, contributors ranging from Channel 5's Dan Walker to Tami Hoffman, director of news at ITN. It was reported recently that the BBC is "weighing up" whether it can reuse footage of Huw Edwards's historic broadcast. He may only have featured fleetingly in this film, but it was a reminder of how well he does gravitas.

KONSTANTINOS SOFIKITIS



Jamie Oliver with his Greek lemon tzatziki chicken

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



The Gift
Radio 4, 11am

Over lockdown many of us spat into a vial and sent off the secrets of our being, our DNA, for an ancestry test. The results are not always what people hoped for. Across six episodes, Jenny Kleeman, *above*, meets the men and women whose lives changed for ever when they did what a growing number of us are doing, including two women in this opener with startling tales to tell. The focus of Kleeman's sleuthing is the fallout from the activities of a doctor called Reynold Boyd in a Harley Street practice in the 1960s, the repercussions of which are still being felt to this day.

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television & radio

Viewing Guide
Ben Dowell

My Mum, Your Dad
ITV1, 9pm

Top pick

If a *Love Island* for the middle-aged sounds like your idea of TV hell, then this Australian format has a sweet twist: the single oldsters are being watched and advised by their grown-up children. Yes, as the parents spend two weeks sizing each other up in a luxury house in the countryside, their offspring are nearby watching their every move. The parents know nothing of this — they think they are being observed and guided by relationship experts, which in a sense they are. There are many things to like about this format. The potential cruelty of the set-up is blown away by the tenderness of the execution, aided by romantic pop tunes that play (a little too intrusively at times) over the action. The hopefuls are single for all sorts of reasons — one woman was dumped by text by her partner just after her father died; a man called Roger is a widower — and all the oldsters' progeny want them to find love. It's hosted by Davina McCall, the *Big Brother* veteran who knows her way round a reality format that comes with a few surprises and has empathy, compassion and an understanding of middle-aged needs. The younger folk are great too. Naturally they worry about watching their parents find love ("I love her, but I know my mum's going to do something to cringe me out," says one), but most of the time they are sensitive and supportive, especially when one gets too keen or when Roger shows how hard it is to let himself go.

Pinochet: The Coup, the Torture and the West
PBS America, 8.30pm

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the coup that brought General Augusto Pinochet to power in Chile, a position that he kept with the support of democracies, including the UK. As the British academic Nicholas O'Shaughnessy, one of many fine contributors to this disturbing programme, says: "We remember Pinochet not just because of his cruelty and sadism, but also because of his personal construction of a new global economic order. You can't underestimate the world historical significance of what he actually did."

BBC1

Early

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Critical Incident. A paramedic in Yorkshire is threatened with a gun (r) **10.45** Expert Witness. A wide range of expert witnesses help in the hunt for serial killer Peter Tobin (r) (AD) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Coventry, Kent and Suffolk (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Charlie Ross presents the show from Builth Wells in Wales (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Sid has a run in with a son determined to follow in his father's criminal footsteps (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. Restoring balloon-back chairs, a discarded safe and an old collapsing card table **3.00** Escape to the Country. Briony May Williams searches for houses in the North Yorkshire countryside, and takes her house buyer to a farm to hand feed a five-day old pet lamb **3.45** Garden Rescue. Lee Burkhill and Chris Hull come to the aid of a couple in Bristol who need a new garden **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz in which five contestants race in moving podiums across the studio floor to try and win £5,000 **5.15** Pointless. Alexander Armstrong hosts **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

7.00 **The One Show** Presented by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 **EastEnders** Kat is furious to be kept in the dark about Tommy's behaviour. Meanwhile, Whitney has a chat with the fostering service (AD)

8.00 **The Dark Side of Ballet Schools — Panorama** Claims of bullying and body shaming at two top ballet schools

8.30 **Garden Rescue** Charlie Dimmock and the team create a tranquil wildlife-friendly garden (6/10) (r) (AD)

9.00 **Who Do You Think You Are?** The singer Boy George traces the story of his maternal grandmother, who was found wandering the streets of Dublin as a small child and put in a children's home (4/8) (r) (AD)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 **BBC Regional News and Weather**

10.40 **The Hit List** Marvin and Rochelle Humes host a *Strictly Come Dancing* special, joined by Tyler West, Dianne Buswell, Kym Marsh, James Bye, Molly Rainford and Carlos Gu (11/12) (r)

11.25 **Question of Sport** A look back at some of the best bits from the past 12 months of the show, with a host of sports stars joining host Paddy McGuinness and team captains Ugo Monye and Sam Quek on the sports quiz. Last in the series (r)

Late

12.00-6.00 BBC News

BBC2

6.30am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.15** Garden Rescue (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: This Farming Life (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** Murder, Mystery and My Family. Criminal barristers Sasha Wass and Jeremy Dein examine the 1935 morphine poisoning of a care home resident in Nottingham for which her nurse was convicted and hanged for (r) (AD) **3.00** The Wonder of Animals. Examining what lies beneath a crocodile's hard exterior (r) (AD) **3.30** Great British Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels from Warwick to Radley (r) (AD, SL) **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are? Jonnie Peacock traces the story of his maternal grandfather, who gave up a potential career in football to take a job as a painter and decorator due to parental pressure (r) (AD) **5.00** Flog It! Members of the public head to the Watts Gallery in Compton, Surrey, to have their collectables assessed, while Paul Martin investigates the history of highwaymen in the county (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Babatunde Aleshe, Richie Anderson, Jo Caulfield and Carol Smillie (r) **6.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden. The chef goes foraging for sea vegetables

7.00 **Chris and Meg's Wild Summer** Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin explore the Lake District (3/6) (r)

7.30 **Mastermind** Clive Myrie hosts, with specialist subjects of Roger Federer, *Gavin & Stacey*, Bronislava Nijinska, and Sergio Leone's Spaghetti Westerns

8.00 **Only Connect** First-round losers the Roadies and the Cribbagers get another chance to stay in the competition

8.30 **University Challenge** Balliol College, Oxford faces Imperial College London

9.00 **Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos** New series. The journalist looks at whether UK politics has been stretched to breaking point in the wake of the turmoil following the EU referendum, and asks if will ever return to normal. *See Viewing Guide* (1/3) (AD)

10.00 **The Royle Family** The wedding is put at risk after Denise kicks up a stink and accuses Dave of flirting with Beverley Macca (5/6) (r) (AD)

10.30 **Newsnight** The day's important national and international news stories presented by Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 **What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? (12, 1962)** An embittered former child star keeps her wheelchair-bound sister a virtual prisoner in their home, carrying out a campaign of sadistic abuse. Drama starring Bette Davis and Joan Crawford (b/w)

1.25am Sign Zone: Dame Judi Dench Countryfile Special Judi Dench joins Charlotte Smith in the grounds of Inveraray Castle (r) (SL) **2.20** Celebrity MasterChef. The remaining contestants cook a three-course-meal over open flame (r) (AD, SL) **3.20-3.50** Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes is feeling down in the dumps (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain. A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of showbiz chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. The chef visits Vigo in north-west Spain, which is home to the biggest fish market in Europe, and tries local octopus and sees how a traditional Galician loaf is made (AD) **3.00** Tenable. Five people from Windsor play to take home a big cash prize by answering a series of Top 10 list questions in the quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as contestants work as a team to take on one of the Chasers and secure a cash prize **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

7.30 **Emmerdale** Lydia struggles in the aftermath of her ordeal, Claudette admits she needed Charles' support, and Gabby insists on selling up (AD)

8.00 **Coronation Street** A row with Stu lands Eliza in hospital, Amy resists Dev's matchmaking attempt, while Dee-Dee fails to twig Joel's real motive, and Roy tackles Lauren's accommodation problem (AD)

9.00 **My Mum, Your Dad** New series. Dating show hosted by Davina McCall, which follows eight single parents who have been nominated by their grown-up children for a second chance at love. *See Viewing Guide* (1/10) (AD)

10.00 **ITV News at Ten**

10.30 **Regional News**

10.45 **Mel Giedroyc and Martin Clunes Explore Britain by the Book** The friends head to Dorset to explore the spectacular scenery and locations made famous by some of Britain's favourite books and films (r) (AD)

11.40 **My Mum, Your Dad** Dating show which follows single parents who have been nominated by their children for a second chance at love (1/10) (r) (AD)

12.30am All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling (r) **2.10** Tipping Point. Quiz hosted by Ben Shephard (r) **3.00** Tenable. Five people from Windsor take part (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. Visiting Vigo in north-west Spain (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Château DIY. Phillip gets creative upcycling 1950s style furniture (r) (AD) **10.55** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. A teacher plans to turn a double-decker bus into a mobile classroom (r) (AD) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Craig Rowe helps a Southampton pair find a holiday home on the Caribbean island of Barbados (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Lee Juggurnauth shows a train driver and a train manager from Staffordshire the best places their £85,000 budget can get them in the town of Pinar de Campoverde in Spain **5.00** Four in a Bed. The B&Bers are in Ramsgate, Kent for the first visit of the week, where partners hope their seaside home from home will prove a relaxing retreat (r) **5.30** Come Dine with Me. The first of five dinner parties from in and around Essex with the host laying on a Mexican theme (r) (AD) **6.00** Hollyoaks. Rayne is determined to turn Faye against Lizzie and her family (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Felix is discharged from hospital, and Warren offers him more than just relationship advice (r) (AD)

7.00 **Channel 4 News**

8.00 **A Cotswold Farmshop** A buyer who looks after the farm shop's selection of beer, is keen to find out why the locally produced malt makes some of the local brews so special. She travels to Warminster Malt House to discover exactly what malt is (6/6) (AD)

9.00 **Top Guns: Inside the RAF** A young pilot encounters a Russian aircraft over Syria when his wingman suffers a cockpit emergency. In Estonia, another broken jet risks leaving NATO's frontline undefended against the Russians (4/6) (AD)

10.00 **Bear Grylls Meets President Zelenskyy** Bear Grylls ventures into Ukraine by invitation of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy where he meets civilians who are trying to endure and survive the war to learn what life is like for them (r) (AD)

11.05 **24 Hours in A&E** Doctors treat a 75-year-old who has been rushed to A&E suffering a stroke. An emergency nurse practitioner talks about the tragic miscarriage she suffered in her youth (4/9) (r) (AD)

12.05am The Queens that Changed the World (AD) **1.00** The Duchess and Her Magical Kingdom (r) (AD) **1.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **2.45** Screw. A corrupt officer is found (r) (AD, SL) **3.40** Grand Designs (r) (AD) **4.30** Location, Location, Location (r) (SL) **5.25** Beat the Chef (r) **5.50-6.05** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.40pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Marilyn misreads Irene's feelings, Theo feels betrayed by Kirby and Justin gets bad news about the imminent album launch (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Secrets By the Shore (PG, TVM, 2022)** After her sister goes missing, a woman returns to her hometown to help pick up the pieces, where she discovers a sinister secret. Thriller starring Christina DeRosa **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. New series. Colin "Coco" Brown books his herd of alpacas in to get their coats trimmed, and is hoping to make back some of the money it's costing by selling their wool **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Susan Calman's Grand Day Out. The comedian visits Shakespeare Country, and stops off at Warwick Castle where she is invited to try the ancient art of archery (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

7.00 **Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders** An urgent call leads to a multi-vehicle pursuit to rescue a child, as a PC tracks down the suspect on the M6. In Cheshire, a vehicle with suspected links to organised crime has been seized (3/10) (r)

7.55 **5 News Update**

8.00 **Police Interceptors** Two officers are on the trail of a potentially armed and dangerous man who's suspected of smashing up a property and spot him. An officer pursues a stolen Ford whose occupants run off into a field, while another officer stops a lad with a dodgy date of birth on his insurance

9.00 **The Inheritance** As Dennis's death becomes the subject of an official police investigation, the siblings hunt for their father's previous will, trying desperately to prove his original intentions. *See Viewing Guide* (2/4)

10.00 **The Killing Kind** New series. Barrister Ingrid Lewis is trying to rebuild her life after getting too close to dangerous former client John Webster, who suddenly reappears. Legal thriller starring Emma Appleton and Colin Morgan (1/6)

11.05 **Ambulance: Code Red** A paramedic attends the scene of a double stabbing in Birmingham, where two neighbours have been attacked. Meanwhile, Ambulance Control receive an emergency call reporting a man trapped under a bus (10/10) (r)

12.00 Police Interceptors (r) **1.00am** Live NFL — Monday Night Football: New York Jets v Buffalo Bills (Kick-off **1.15**) **4.30** Entertainment News on 5 **4.40** Great Artists (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News **5.35** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.45-6.00** Paw Patrol (r) (SL)



Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos
BBC2, 9pm

Since she stepped down as the BBC's political editor, Laura Kuenssberg has — like so many BBC political reporters before her — enjoyed work where she can perform bigger sit-down interviews and offer sage reflections. Over three films this new series finds her examining the hectic developments of recent years and wondering whether our politics has been stretched to breaking point. Or as she puts it: "I want to take viewers behind the scenes to show them what really happened, and ask whether, after all the craziness, politics will ever be the same again."

The Inheritance
Channel 5, 9pm

The shlocky family saga continues as the siblings Daniel (Robert James-Collier), Chloe (Jemima Rooper) and Sian (Gaynor Faye) reel from the ending of the opening episode, when the coroner stopped the funeral of their dad, Dennis. His death is now the subject of a police investigation (and an unofficial one by the siblings). Susan, Dennis's secret lady, continues to be great value, with Samantha Bond revelling in her glacial villainy. Matters are complicated by the disclosure of more financial and romantic murkiness, and Sian's crush on the estate agent who valued her father's house.

Edward Heath Remembered by Michael Cockerell
BBC4, 10pm

The BBC's poster boy for political profiles, Michael Cockerell has a deserved reputation for getting under the skin of the Westminster men and women who have governed postwar Britain. Here he remembers one of the pricklier residents of No 10, a man who wanted his private life kept just that. It's a brief introduction to a repeat showing of what Cockerell clearly regards as one of the most challenging encounters of his career, *A Very Singular Man*(BBC4, 10.10pm), his 1998 documentary profile of Heath.

Film Naked
Film4, 11.30pm

A great David Thewlis performance in a great Mike Leigh film. Thewlis plays a conspiracy theorist who, over the course of this social-realist rollercoaster, expounds on his life theories to anyone unfortunate enough to cross his path. (18, 1994)

Sky Max

6.00am Supergirl (r) **7.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **8.00** The Flash (r) **9.00** Stargate Atlantis (r) **11.00** Supergirl (r) **12.00** The Flash (r) **1.00pm** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **6.00** Stargate Atlantis. Keller is kidnapped (r) **7.00** Stargate Atlantis. The Atlantis crew encounters a mysterious alien race (r) **8.00** There's Something About Movies. Comedy panel show hosted by Alan Carr (r) (AD) **9.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With Sam Campbell, Calum Scott and CMAT (r) **9.45** Brassic. The gang ends up horrendously lost during a camping trip (r) (AD) **10.45** Brassic. Davey MacDonagh invites Vinnie, Dylan and Tommo to a lavish party (r) (AD) **11.45** COBRA: Cyberwar. An unseen enemy strikes from the shadows (1/6) (r) (AD) **12.45am** Road Wars (r) **2.10** Stop, Search, Seize (r) (AD) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Fish Town (r) **7.55** The Leftovers (r) (AD) **10.05** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** This England (r) (AD) **3.30** The Leftovers (r) (AD) **5.45** Ray Donovan. Drama starring Liev Schreiber (r) **7.55** Game of Thrones. Jaime finally visits Tyrion in jail after some persuasion from Bronn, and also has a mission for Brienne (r) (AD) **9.00** Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty. Drama starring John C Reilly (6/7) (r) **10.05** Euphoria. Tensions with Rue's family escalate when her recent behaviour is brought to light (5/8) (r) (AD) **11.10** Dreamland. Comedy about four sisters from the seaside town of Margate. Stars Lily Allen and Freema Agyeman (1/6) (r) (AD) **11.40** Billions. Chuck wrestles with his demons and chooses a new path. Wendy takes the lead as Axe Camp faces a new threat (2/12) (r) (AD) **12.50am** Billions. Axe has a family crisis (r) (AD) **1.55** Drift — Partners in Crime (r) **2.55** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **4.00** Fish Town (r)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am The 2000s (r) **7.00** Discovering: Ed Harris (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** Kingdom of Dreams (r) (AD) **10.00** The Vietnam War (r) **11.00** 100 Foot Wave (r) (AD) **12.00 FILM: Forced Out (2023)** People dishonourably discharged from the armed forces because of their sexuality **2.00pm** The Janes (r) (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Ed Harris (r) **6.00** Kingdom of Dreams (r) (AD) **7.00** The Vietnam War (r) **8.00** 100 Foot Wave (6/6) (r) (AD) **9.00** On the Line: The Richard Williams Story. The father of tennis stars Venus and Serena retraces his family's journey (r) (AD) **10.50 FILM: Dying to Divorce (15, 2021)** Turkey's gender-based violence crisis **12.35am FILM: We Are Freestyle Love Supreme (15, 2020)** Following Lin-Manuel Miranda's improvisation hip-hop group **2.20 FILM: 76 Days (15, 2021)** The initial outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Wuhan **4.10** The Directors (r) **5.05** Discovering: Ed Harris (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am Hollywood in Vienna: A Night at the Oscars **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Ben Kingsley **12.00** The Joy of Painting **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Vermeer from the National Gallery, London **3.00** Wordsworth & Coleridge Road Trip with Frank Skinner and Denise Mina **4.00** Discovering: Helen Mirren. A profile of the actress **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.00** The Joy of Painting. With Bob Ross **7.30** The Joy of Painting. Helpful advice **8.00** André Rieu & Friends: Live In Maastricht VII. The 2013 instalment of the violinist's concert series in his hometown **11.15** Katharine Hepburn: Call Me Kate. A profile of the actress (AD) **1.15am** Darbar Festival 2022. Performances from the festival **2.30** Chris O'Dowd: Off Camera **3.45** National Trust: Garden Treasures (AD) **5.00** The South Bank Show Originals

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **8.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **9.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Sky Sports News **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.00** Lunchtime Live **1.00pm** Lunchtime Live **2.00** Live Sports Desk **3.00** Live Sports Desk **4.00** Live Sports Desk **5.00** Live Sky Sports News at 5 **6.00** Live Sky Sports News at 6 **7.00** Sky Sports News **8.00** Sky Sports News **9.00** Fight Night. Liam Smith v Chris Eubank. Action from the middleweight rematch at AO Arena in Manchester **10.00** Live Sky Sports News at Ten **10.30** Back Pages Tonight **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.00** Sky Sports News **1.00am** Live NFL: New York Jets v Buffalo Bills (Kick-off **1.15**). Coverage of the week one match at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey **4.30** Sky Sports News **5.00** Sky Sports News

TIMES Documentaries

IN OUR NEW FULL-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY, WE DIVE INTO A DEEPLY DIVISIVE ASPECT OF AMERICAN DISCOURSE. THE TEAM SPENT TWO WEEKS IN FLORIDA INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF SOME OF THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL POLICIES OF GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS.
DIRECTED BY ALASTAIR GOOD.

SEARCH 'MAKE AMERICA FLORIDA' ON YouTube

TalkTV

6.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. All the stories you need to know to start your day **9.30** Mike and Kev. Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan give their unique take on the front pages and the latest news **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Monologues and debates **3.00** Kevin O'Sullivan. The host tackles the big stories of the day **5.00** Vanessa Feltz. Big names, exclusive interviews, and viewers' thoughts on what has got the nation talking **7.00** Jeremy Kyle Live. The straight-talking host takes on the issues that really matter **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events **9.00** The Talk. A panel of famous faces debate the top issues everybody's talking about **10.00** First Edition. An energetic look at tomorrow's newspapers **11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **12.00** Petrie Hosken. Bringing the very best and latest news stories overnight **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle Live **2.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories

BBC4

7.00pm Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo's railway adventure reaches the west coast of Scotland where he crosses the awe-inspiring Glenfinnan Viaduct (AD) **7.30** The Riviera: A History in Pictures. How art and celebrity became intertwined (2/2) **8.30** Royal History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley: Queen Anne. The historian examines the reign of Queen Anne (3/3) (AD) **9.30** The Sky at Night. A journey to the heart of Chile's Atacama Desert to explore one of the most advanced observatories in the world — the Very Large Telescope or VLT (AD) **10.00** Edward Heath Remembered by Michael Cockerell. Michael Cockerell's memories of the British politician. *See Viewing Guide* **10.10** A Very Singular Man: A Film Portrait of Edward Heath. The reporter Michael Cockerell's 1998 profile of the former prime minister **11.10** Invasion! with Sam Willis. Sam Willis tells the story of the Barbary Corsaire pirates **12.10am** The Shock of the New. First broadcast in 1980 **2.10** Great Coastal Railway Journeys (AD) **2.40-3.40** Royal History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley: Queen Anne (AD, SL)

Talking Pictures

6.00am FILM: Strictly for the Birds (PG, 1964) (b/w) **7.15 FILM: Guilty? (PG, 1956)** (b/w) **9.05 FILM: Broken Lance (U, 1954)** Western starring Spencer Tracy **11.00 FILM: The Night Has Eyes (PG, 1942)** Thriller with Joyce Howard (b/w) **12.35pm FILM: Our Miss Fred (PG, 1972)** Second World War comedy starring Danny La Rue **2.30** Crown Court **3.00 FILM: Danger Ahead (U, 1940)** Action adventure starring James Newill (b/w) **4.05 FILM: Laughter in Paradise (U, 1951)** Comedy starring Alastair Sim (b/w) **6.00** The Footage Detectives **7.00 FILM: Crime of Passion (PG, 1957)** Melodrama starring Barbara Stanwyck (b/w) **8.45** Look at Life **9.00** The Gold Robbers **10.05 FILM: Day of the Nightmare (PG, 1965)** Horror starring John Ireland (b/w) **11.55 FILM: Lady in Cement (15, 1968)** Thriller starring Frank Sinatra **1.45am FILM: The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea (18, 1976) 3.55 FILM: Fighting Man of the Plains (U, 1949)** **5.45** Old Mother Riley's Musical Moments

Film4

11.00am It Should Happen to You (U, 1954) Comedy starring Judy Holliday (b/w) **12.45pm The Swimmer (PG, 1968)** Drama starring Burt Lancaster (AD) **2.35 Went the Day Well? (PG, 1942)** Second World War drama starring Leslie Banks (b/w) (AD) **4.25 Sands of Iwo Jima (PG, 1949)** Second World War adventure starring John Wayne (b/w) (AD) **6.40 The Day After Tomorrow (12, 2004)** A climatologist races across America to rescue his son as freak weather conditions cause devastation around the world. Disaster thriller starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid **9.00 xXx (12, 2002)** A jailed extreme sports star is offered a way out of prison if he agrees to take on a gang of international terrorists. Action adventure starring Vin Diesel, Samuel L Jackson, Asia Argento and Marton Csokas **11.30 Naked (18, 1993)** A Mancunian drifter flees to London, where he antagonises everyone he meets, forcing them to question their existence. Mike Leigh's drama starring David Thewlis and Lesley Sharp. *See Viewing Guide* **2.10am-4.00 Night of the Kings (15, 2021)** Fantasy drama starring Steve Tientcheu (AD)

More4

8.55am Kirstie's House of Craft **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **2.10** Four in a Bed **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (AD) **5.50** The Secret Life of the Zoo (AD) **6.55** The Dog House. An 11-year-old is thrilled to meet his dream dog — a pug (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. A year after his last visit and with the house finally complete, Kevin McCloud returns to Somerset to see a couple and their cowshed conversion (1/10) (AD) **9.00** Remarkable Places to Eat. Fred Sirieix and Thomasina Miers explore south Wales, visiting a Cardiff restaurant inspired by Spanish grill houses where everything is cooked over fire. Last in the series (AD) **10.00** 9/11: 102 Minutes That Changed America. Amateur footage and audiotape recorded by people around New York, giving an insight into their experiences of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001 (AD) **12.40am** Emergency Helicopter Medics: Extreme Cycling Emergencies (AD) **1.45** 999: On the Front Line **2.50-3.50** 24 Hours in A&E (AD)

ITV2

6.00am CITV **9.00** One Tree Hill **10.00** Dawson's Creek **11.00** Love Bites (AD, SL) **12.00** Dinner Date (AD) **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dinner Date (AD) **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase (AD) **7.00** Family Fortunes **8.00** Superstore (AD) **8.30** Superstore (AD) **9.00** Family Guy. Peter makes a hologram of himself to get out of menial tasks (AD) **9.30** American Dad! Wheels and the Legman hunt down the perpetrators who destroyed Steve's secret swimming hole (AD) **10.00** American Dad! (AD) **10.30** Family Guy (AD) **11.00** Family Guy (AD) **11.30** American Dad! (AD) **12.00** Superstore (AD) **1.00am** Shopping with Keith Lemon **1.30** Celebrity Karaoke Club **2.25** The Sex Lives of College Girls (SL) **2.55** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **5.00** The Epic Tales of Captain Underpants (AD) **5.25** Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated **5.45** Craig of the Creek

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** On the Buses **9.15** Where the Heart Is (AD) **11.35** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.45** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.55** Endeavour (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat. Rosie receives unwelcome attention from an admirer (AD) **6.55** Heartbeat. A pillar of the community is suspected of murder (AD) **8.00** Endeavour. A chocolate factory owner is murdered during a fox hunt. When a couple from a nearby village are also found dead, Endeavour uncovers a campaign of rumour (3/4) (AD) **10.00** Trigger Point. Two bomb disposal officers are called out to a Met counter-terrorism operation at a London housing estate. Thriller with Vicky McClure and Adrian Lester (1/6) (AD) **11.05** Trigger Point. CCTV footage leads Washington and the team to a warehouse, where they uncover bomb-making materials and evidence that seems to confirm that the bombers were Islamist (2/6) (AD) **12.10am** Where the Heart Is (AD, SL) **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am Minder (AD, SL) **7.05** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.10** The Saint **9.15** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.25** Magnum, PI **11.25** The Motorbike Show **12.25pm** The Saint **1.30** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **2.40** Magnum, PI **3.45** The Professionals (AD) **4.55** Minder. Arthur trails a petty criminal (AD) **6.00** The Motorbike Show **7.00** BattleBots. A desperate Huge faces Kraken and Lock-Jaw takes on Jackpot **8.00** MotoGP Highlights. The San Marino Grand Prix from Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli **9.00 FILM: Rocky Balboa (12, 2006)** The ageing fighter comes out of retirement to take on the current reigning heavyweight champion. Boxing drama sequel directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Burt Young (AD) **11.10 FILM: Rambo (18, 2008)** The one-man army travels to Burma to rescue a party of missionaries from a sadistic military officer. Action sequel directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Julie Benz **12.55am** Motorsport UK **1.50** Minder (AD, SL) **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** All Creatures Great and Small **8.00** Doctors **9.20** Classic Holby City **10.40** Casualty **11.45** The Bill **12.50pm** Classic EastEnders **2.05** Pie in the Sky **3.05** Lovejoy **4.10** All Creatures Great and Small **5.20** The Upper Hand **5.55** 'Allo 'Allo! **6.40** Last of the Summer Wine **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. Seymour offers his talents and services to the clergy **8.00** Miss Marple. A man arrives in an East Anglian village with his sister to convalesce following a flying accident — but the residents' warm welcome isn't all it seems (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. Fresh DNA tests on an unidentified body found in 1996 reveal the victim to be an Albanian police interpreter, whose last assignment was translating for a witness in a murder trial (3/10) (AD) **11.20** Silent Witness. A pathologist disappears and Nikki is asked by a National Crime Agency investigator to help his enquiry by employing the chief suspect. Emilia Fox stars (AD) **1.25am** Lovejoy. The dealer seeks a sword **2.35** Classic Holby City (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am Shipwreck Secrets **7.10** Warbird Workshop **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **10.00** Secret Nazi Bases **11.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash (AD) **4.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Great British Railway Journeys **7.00** Bangers & Cash. Two very different Ford Capris go head-to-head at the auction (7/10) **8.00** Hornby: A Model World. A model of Winston Churchill's funeral wagon (3/10) (AD) **9.00** Secrets of the London Underground. Exploring hidden parts of Archway (AD) **10.00** Bangers & Cash. Derek collects five veteran motorbikes from an enthusiast (AD) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering. Exploring a jungle refuge concealing a story of royal deceit, nuclear bunkers infiltrated by outsiders, and a haunted hospital marked by scandal (3/12) (AD) **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Train Truckers **2.00** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities (AD) **2.25** Sounds of the Seventies **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: 10.40pm Jailed: Inside Maghaberry Prison. Talking to a convicted killer **11.10** The Hit List (r) **11.55** Question of Sport (r) **12.25am-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 11.25pm Sportscene: SWPL Highlights. Action from the latest matches (r) **12.10am** Question of Sport (r) **12.40** Weather for the Week Ahead **12.45-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: 8.00pm Pizza Boys: World Cup Adventure. The boys go deep-sea fishing in Nice **8.30-9.00** The Dark Side of Ballet Schools — Panorama (r) **10.40** Match of the Day Wales **11.10** Question of Sport (r) **11.40** The Hit List (r) **12.25am-6.00** BBC News

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: 10.00pm-10.30 Peatai!

ITV1 Wales
As ITV1 except: 10.45pm-11.40 Sharp End

STV
As ITV1 except: 10.30pm STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** Mel Giedroyc and Martin Clunes Explore Britain by the Book (r) (AD) **12.00** My Mum, Your Dad. Dating show (r) (AD) **12.55am-2.10** British Touring Car Championship Highlights. Action from Donington Park (r) **3.50-5.05** Night Vision

UTV
As ITV1 except: 10.45pm-11.40 View from Stormont. Political developments

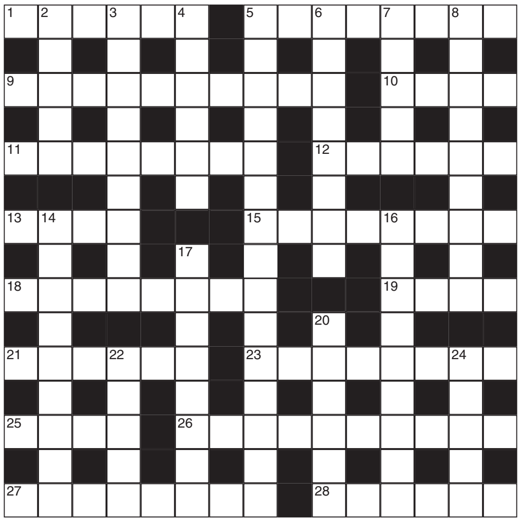
BBC Scotland
2.00pm Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Return to Uist (r) (AD) **3.00-4.00** Island Crossings (r) **7.00** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights **7.45** Beechgrove Repotted (r) **8.00** This Farming Life **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Being Mum with MND (r) **11.00** Gary: Tank Commander (r) **11.30-12.00** Limmy's Show (r)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) **5.15** Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) **5.20** AH-AH/No-No (r) **5.35** Na Clangers **5.45** Rita is Crogall (r) **5.50** Meaban is Moo (r) **5.55** Stòiridh **6.00** Port Pàipeir (r) **6.10** Damhan & Durrag/Pipas & Douglas (r) **6.15** A' Chuil (r) **6.25** Bogaisean is Gumbalan/Bottersnikes and Gumbles **6.35** Geamaichean Gorach (r) **6.40** Na Dana-thursan aig Tintin/The Adventures of Tintin (r) **7.00** Na Drobhairean (Scottish History) (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** Barraigh Gu Barcelona/Barra to Barcelona (r) **9.00** Trusadh (Compelling Stories) (r) **10.00** Bannan (The Ties That Bind) (r) **10.30** Iùl a' Chiùil (The Musical Path) (r) **11.30** Mach à Seo! (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Jen a Jim a'r Cywiadur (r) **6.20** Octonots (r) **6.35** Shwshaswyn (r) **6.45** Sigldigwt (r) **7.00** Timpo (r) **7.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau **7.20** Misho (r) **7.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau **7.45** Byd Tad-Cu **8.00** Sali Mali (r) **8.05** Digbi Draig (r) **8.20** Dathlu 'Da Dona (r) **8.35** Twt (r) **8.45** Asra (r) **9.00** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **9.10** Cymylaubychain (r) **9.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **9.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **9.45** Deian a Loli (r) **10.00** Blociau Rhif (r) **10.05** Jen a Jim a'r Cywiadur (r) **10.20** Octonots (r) **10.35** Shwshaswyn (r) **10.45** Sigldigwt (r) **11.00** Timpo (r) **11.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **11.20** Misho (r) **11.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau (r) **11.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Adre (r) **12.30** Heno Aur (r) **1.00** Ceffylau Cymru (r) **1.30** Pen/Campwyr (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Eryri: Pobol y Parc (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **4.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **4.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau (r) **4.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Dennis a Dannedd (r) **5.10** Seligo (r) **5.15** Bwystfil (r) **5.25** Dyffryn Mwmin **5.50** News Ni **6.00** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **6.30** Garejis: Dan y Bonet (r) (AD) **7.00** News **7.20** Live Sgorio Rhyngwladol: Latvia v Wales (Kick-off **7.45**). The Uefa Euro 2024 Group D qualifier at Skonto Stadium **10.00** Ralïo+ **10.35-11.40** Y Llinell Las (r)

MindGames

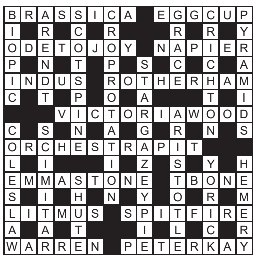
General Knowledge Crossword No 198



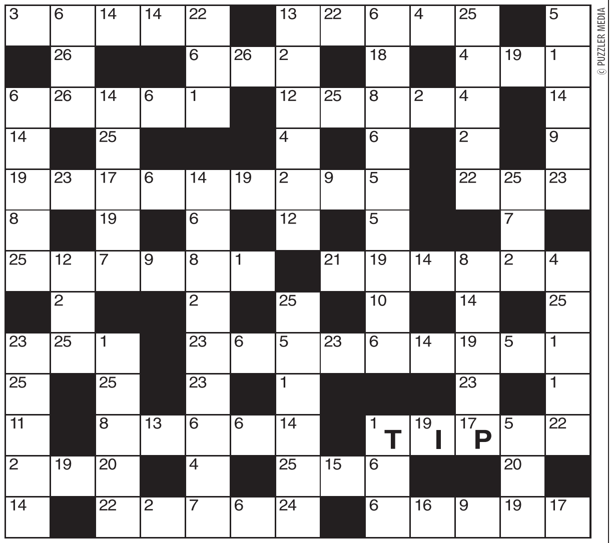
Across
1 Bowler-hatted henchman played by Harold Sakata in the Bond film *Goldfinger* (6)
5 Northumbrian saint and early bishop of Lindisfarne (8)
9 Booker-winning author of *Life of Pi* (4,6)
10 Laura ---, British team captain at the recent World Athletics Championships in Budapest (4)
11 Bird with a large thick bill for cracking tough seeds (8)
12 Iconic British model born Lesley Hornby (6)
13 Final word of the King James Bible (4)
15 US creator of the Times Crossword-solving detective Nero Wolfe (3,5)
18 Singer who was known as the Forces' Sweetheart (4,4)
19 Second son of Adam and Eve (4)
21 Dispute between the UK and Iceland over fishing rights (3,3)
23 Insect *Musca domestica* (8)
25 Ancient stringed instrument made out of a tortoiseshell (4)
26 London district once home to a large exhibition centre (5,5)
27 Venomous marine reptile (3,5)
28 Partly walled Shropshire town with a Norman castle (6)

Down
2 Royal daughter of the 8th Earl Spencer (5)
3 Film actress in the title roles of *Cat Ballou* and *Barbarella* (4,5)
4 Bespectacled scientist in the *Thunderbirds* series (6)
5 *The* ---, 1951 novel featuring the youth Holden Caulfield (7,2,3,3)
6 Defunct TV information service such as Ceefax (8)
7 Cartoon fawn befriended by Thumper the rabbit (5)
8 Meteorological instrument also known as a pluviometer (4,5)
14 Greek goddess of memory and mother of the Muses (9)
16 Quadrilateral with neither pair of sides parallel (9)
17 Traditional form of medicine and healing in Hinduism (8)
20 Shellfish often eaten with "frites" in Belgium (6)
22 *Astral* ---, seminal 1968 album by Van Morrison (5)
24 Musical instruction to play slowly and broadly (5)

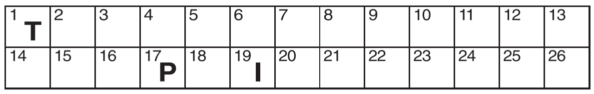
Last week's solution



Codeword No 5003



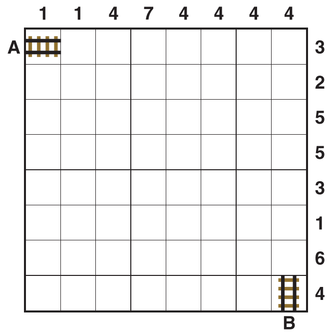
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Saturday's solution, right*

Cluelines **Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

Train Tracks No 2036



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Island broadcaster's announcement (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Secure components on return (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Monkey making terrible mistake (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Stop proportional representation happening (7)

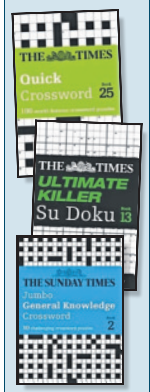
_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 MP and relation jumping about on this? (10)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

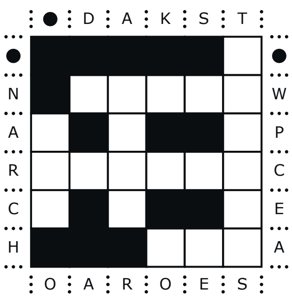
A	A	E	E	E	E	E	H
I	K	L	L	M	N	N	O
O	P	P	P	R	R	R	R
S	S	T	T	T	V	W	Y

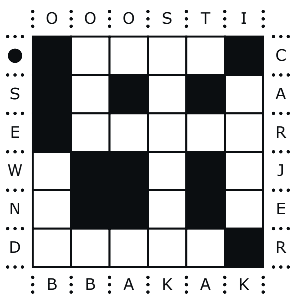
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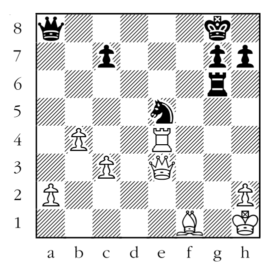
Lexica No 7041 No 7042





Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

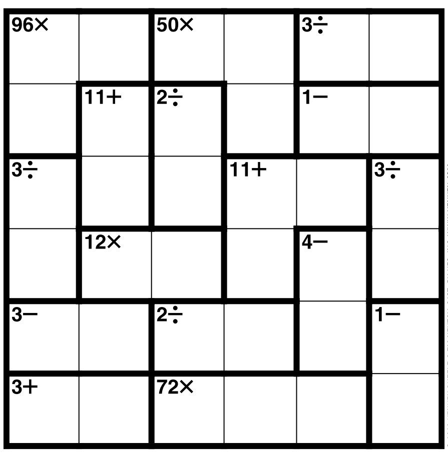
Winning Move



Black to play. This position from Veloz-Valles Moreno, Pontevedra 2023.

Tactical kills do not, in general, appear out of nowhere. Usually there are features that sound alarm bells. Here the pin on the h1-a8 diagonal and powerful rook on the g-file are clues. How can Black finish off?

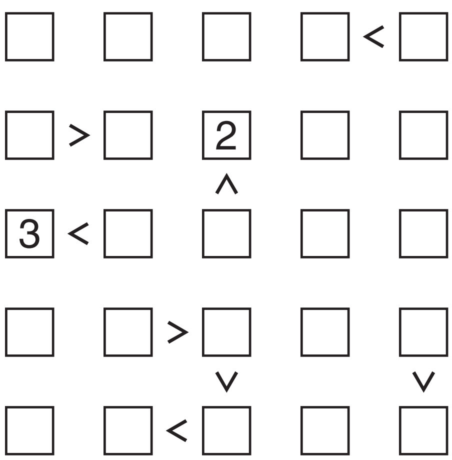
KenKen Easy No 5995



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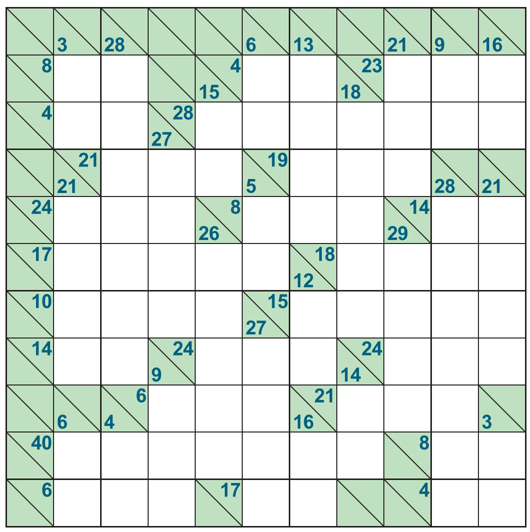
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4561



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3520

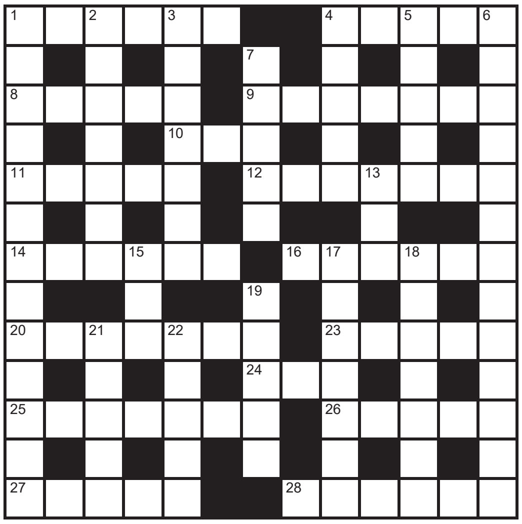


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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MindGames

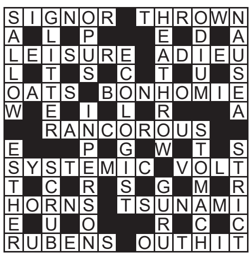
times2 Crossword No 9319



Across
1 Young porcine animal (6)
4 Repeated theme (5)
8 Hissing firework (5)
9 Shockingly bad (7)
10 Subdivision of a play (3)
11 Monkey-like mammal (5)
12 Rest on top of (7)
14 Director's cry (6)
16 Tie-breaking match (6)
20 Period of civilisation (4,3)
23 Fictional swordsman (5)
24 Produce (an egg) (3)
25 Police force (3,4)
26 Stereotypically masculine (5)
27 Mythical temptress (5)
28 Laura ---, British designer (6)

Down
1 Lily-livered (13)
2 Epicure (7)
3 Official stoppage of trade (7)
4 Perhaps (5)
5 South Asian language (5)
6 Popular misconception about a word's origins (4,9)
7 Relay team's rod (5)
13 Sales agent (3)
15 Charged particle (3)
17 Biochemical catalysts (7)
18 (Of poetry) songlike (7)
19 Stomach (5)
21 Command (5)
22 Straighten; co-ordinate (5)

Solution to Crossword 9318



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Brain Trainer

EASY 52	x 2	− 16	÷ 2	+ 6	60% OF IT	÷ 5	+ 6	x 2	− 7	ANSWER
MEDIUM 124	+ 88	+¼ OF IT	+ 97	+½ OF IT	− 79	25% OF IT	x 6	− 78	50% OF IT	ANSWER
HARDER 103	x 9	+⅔ OF IT	x 4	90% OF IT	− 784	½ OF IT	+ 659	+½ OF IT	x 2	ANSWER

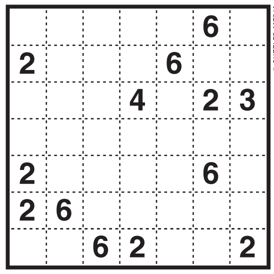
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 10 words, average; 14, good; 18, very good; 22, excellent

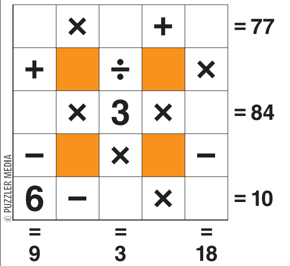
Saturday's answers
beep, beer, belie, berk, **besprinkle**, bier, bike, biker, bile, bilk, bilker, bine, birl, bleep, blin, blink, blinker, blip, brine, brink, bris, brisé, brisk, brisken, kerb, kibe, nibs, pleb, plebe, rebel, sleb, snib

Cell Blocks No 4886



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

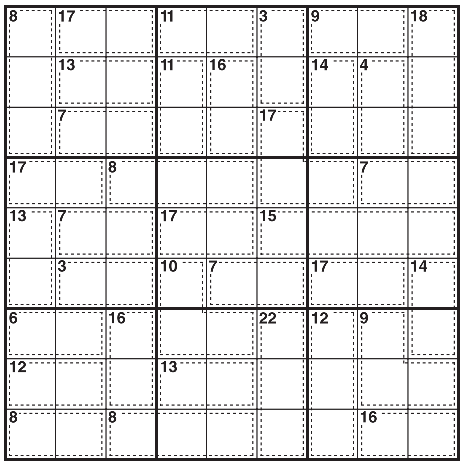
Set Square No 3523



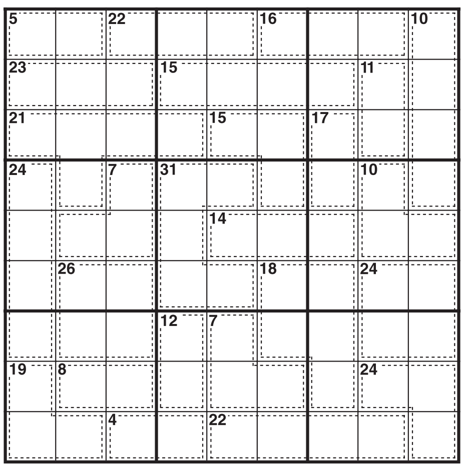
Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Gentle No 9062



Killer Tricky No 9063



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

One of Scotland's best ever bridge players, Willie Coyle, passed away last month aged 85. It feels like the end of an era, the last of Scotland's greats of the Sixties and Seventies gone. With Victor Silverstone (who died in 2021), Coyle dominated the Camrose Trophy (for home nations), Scotland winning five times and tying twice between 1966 and 1976.

Coyle worked in education, first as a maths teacher then as an administrator, for which he received an MBE in 2003. Coyle was born in Paisley, the fifth of 11 children. He won the Gold Cup four times, and represented Great Britain six times in the European Championships.

Coyle was quietly-spoken but when he did speak, you listened. Famously ascetic, he never drank, nor smoked, nor even added milk to his tea or coffee. One of his partners, Barnet Shenkin, told me this story partnering Coyle v Sweden in an evening match during the 1985 European Championships in Italy (see deal).

West, Shenkin, cashed the ace of spades v 3♣ doubled, switching at trick two to the queen of diamonds. Still on play at trick three, he tried the king of spades — not best but not fatal.

Declarer ruffed and cashed the ace of clubs, reading East's ten to be singleton. He crossed to a top heart, cashed the promoted queen of spades (discarding a heart), ruffed the nine of spades then crossed to the other top heart.

In the ending across, declarer ruffed a third heart with the queen

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

Teams

North: ♠ Q943 ♥ AK86 ♦ J10843 ♣ -
West: ♠ AKJ82 ♥ 42 ♦ Q ♣ K8652
East: ♠ 765 ♥ QJ107 ♦ AK765 ♣ 10
South: ♠ 10 ♥ 953 ♦ 92 ♣ AQJ9743

S	W(Shenkin)	N	E(Coyle)
	1♠	Pass	2♦
3♣	Dbl	End	

Contract: 3♣ Dbled, Opening Lead: ♠ A

North: ♠ - ♦ 86 (led) ♦ J108 ♣ -
West: ♠ J ♥ - ♦ - ♣ K865
East: ♠ - ♥ QJ ♦ AK7 ♣ -
South: ♠ - ♥ - ♦ 9 ♣ QJ97

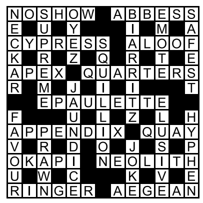
of clubs. What should West do?

At the table, West discarded his spade. No good — declarer led his losing diamond, West ruffing perforce and having to give declarer two more tricks with ♣J97. Doubled contract made — into game.

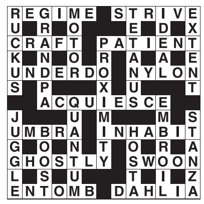
Overruffing the queen of clubs with the king is no good either. The winning defence is to underruff — now declarer must go one down. Naturally Coyle spotted this and told the non-playing captain Tony Priday that the only reason Shenkin had missed that play was his glass of wine during the meal break. andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Solutions

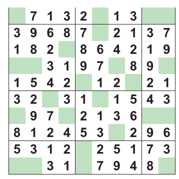
Quick Cryptic 2479



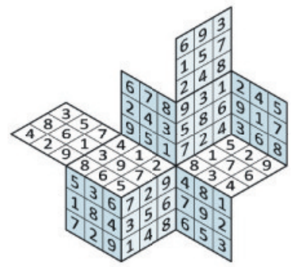
Codeword 5002



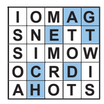
Kakuro 3519



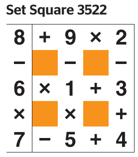
Tredoku 1802



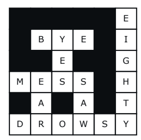
Square Routes 235



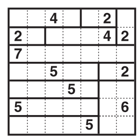
Set Square 3522



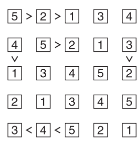
Lexica 7039



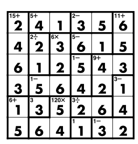
Cell Blocks 4885



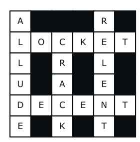
Futoshiki 4560



KenKen 5994



Lexica 7040



Sudoku 14,312

7	1	3	5	4	8	2	9	6
9	8	5	6	2	1	4	7	3
6	2	4	7	9	3	1	5	8
2	5	9	3	7	4	8	6	1
8	4	7	1	6	9	3	2	5
3	6	1	8	5	2	9	4	7
5	3	2	9	8	7	6	1	4
1	9	6	4	3	5	7	8	2
4	7	8	2	1	6	5	3	9

Killer 9061

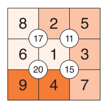
4	9	2	3	7	5	1	8	6
8	6	5	1	4	9	2	3	7
3	7	1	8	2	6	5	9	4
2	1	3	7	5	4	9	6	8
6	4	7	9	1	8	3	2	5
9	5	8	6	3	2	7	4	1
7	2	9	4	8	1	6	5	3
1	8	6	5	9	3	4	7	2
5	3	4	2	6	7	8	1	9

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Wrist
2 Brass
3 Alice
4 Elastic
5 Band leader

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Skye
2 Strap
3 Howler
4 Prevent
5 Trampoline

Suko 3904



Brain Trainer
Easy 17
Medium 309
Harder 9,144

Word watch
Trajectitious (a) Of travel across the sea (*OED*)
Dodkin (c) A coin of little value (*Collins*)
Macallum (c) Vanilla ice cream with raspberry sauce (*Chambers*)

Chess — Winning Move
1 ... Ng4! attacks the white queen which must maintain contact with the rook but after, eg 2 Qf3, the reply 2 ... Qxe4! 3 Qxe4 Nf2 is mate

Quiz
1 October 31 2 Golden Gate Bridge 3 Peter Kay 4 York
5 Rothschild family
6 Classical music 7 Taylor Woodrow 8 *Lady Marmalade*
9 Jackdaw or *Corvus monedula* 10 Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury
11 *Starship Troopers*
12 Ernest Raymond
13 Marie-Guillemine Benoist
14 Scotland 15 Alton Mason

THE TIMES 11.09.23

MindGames

For extra puzzles See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Trajectitious
a Of travel across the sea
b Pertaining to tall columns
c Argumentative

Dodkin
a A blunt large-eyed needle
b A small hill or fell
c A coin of little value

Macallum
a A road-surfacing material
b A type of hair oil
c Ice cream with raspberry sauce

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Easy No 14,313

	5	1	7		4	9	6	
3								7
		6		8		5		
	9		8		7		5	
7				9				4
			6		3			
6	2						3	5
	8	4		5		2	7	
9		5				6		1

Difficult No 14,314

	5			1	2			
4	6	2						
	7	5					4	
1			9				2	
2	8	4		5				
	2		3		8	7		
		7	1		6	5	3	
			7	4		1		

Fiendish No 14,315

					6			3
						6	5	
				4				8
				8		9		
		8	7		1			
1				5			8	6
	8		3				6	1
	4				7	5		
9		7			2	8		

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 On which date is Halloween observed?

2 Which suspension bridge carries US Highway 101 between San Francisco and Marin County?

3 Who played Brian Potter in the Channel 4 sitcom *Phoenix Nights*?

4 Stephen Cottrell is the 98th Archbishop of where?

5 The Buckinghamshire country house Mentmore Towers was built between 1852 and 1854 for which banking family?

6 Launched in 2019, the UK digital radio station Scala Radio specialises in which music?

GETTY IMAGES



7 In 2007, which housebuilder merged with George Wimpey to form Taylor Wimpey?

8 Which 1975 US No 1 by Labelle features the repeated refrain: "Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?"?

9 Which bird is the smallest member of the crow family?

10 Who is the tallest recorded British prime minister (1830-1903) at a height of 6ft 4in?

11 *Bug Hunt at Outpost Nine* was the working title of which Paul Verhoeven film?

12 Who wrote the novels *Tell England* (1922) and *We, the Accused* (1935)?

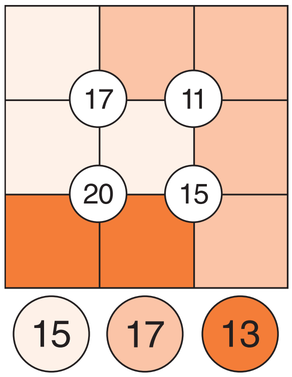
13 Which Frenchman painted *Portrait of Madeleine* (1800), previously titled *Portrait of a Black Woman*?

14 In rugby union, which country plays France for the Auld Alliance trophy?

15 Who is this American supermodel?

Answers on page 15

Suko No 3904

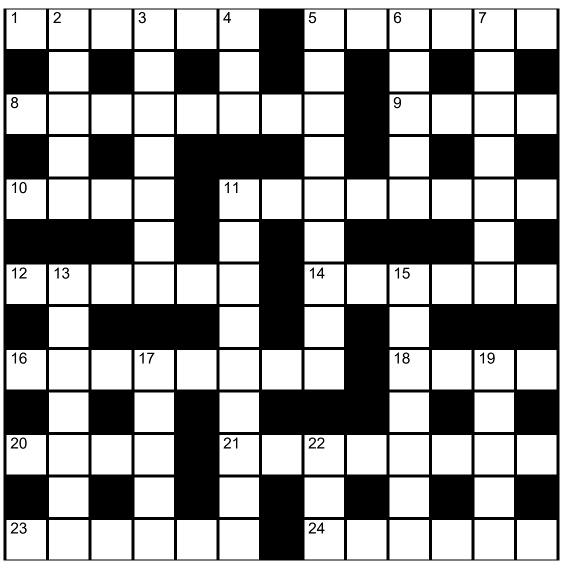


Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk



The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2480 by Oink



Across
1 I reportedly secure an offshore property (6)
5 Property of eastern nation (6)
8 Soldier has nothing on head (8)
9 Punishment of some of momma's boys (4)
10 Jack Sprat's wife didn't like this film director (4)
11 Doctor eating trout's head, or another fish? (8)
12 Journey out of Odessa far inland (6)
14 Selected for team, as old lag might be? (6)
16 Resign, depressed by return of bad moods (4,4)
18 Novelist making friends in Paris (4)
20 Elusive beast one's stalking still (4)
21 Postmen I trained getting preferential treatment (8)
23 Seem to be a very quiet listener (6)
24 Chap, one that boils over on the radio? (6)

Down
2 Ripped off shawl (5)
3 A marine out of place in landlocked country (7)
4 Wife leaving unhappy Spanish gentleman (3)
5 Days away from transfer of power, a natural progression (9)
6 Chinese dynasty adopting western accent (5)
7 A bit old, unfortunately, as *Times* now is? (7)
11 How sniper shot someone like Onassis? (9)
13 An imbecile in Belgian port (7)
15 Resolve to go round a US city (7)
17 One disturbing model's composure (5)
19 I begin proceedings about son's problem (5)
22 Napoleon was such a greedy chap (3)

Friday's solution on page 15